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KENT ON SUNDAY

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'NOT ONE OF THEM HAS A NORMAL ENGLISH NAME...'

Tory councillor suspended for email about party's MP list

HOT WATER: Cllr Hobbins has been suspended

By **NICK AMES**

A FORMER Tory parliamentary candidate has been suspended by his party and branded a racist after allegedly claiming people wanting to be MPs for his party did not have "normal" English names.

Peter Hobbins is accused of sending several emails in the early hours of Thursday morning to a number of fellow Bromley councillors and Orpington's Conservative Association chairman attacking the list of prospective parliamentary candidates for the safe Tory seat.

Orpington is seeking a new Conservative candidate for the next general election after John Horam had announced he would stand down. The list is approved by Conservative Central Office.

Cllr Hobbins is understood to have sent an email to Orpington Conservative Association chairman John Esler which read: "I have been contacted by a Mr Dilon Gumraj and a Zerha Zaidi and others who are all on the approved Conservative Parliamentary Candidates list. Not one of them has a 'normal' English name.

"They want to be the PPCs for Orpington and asked me for my personal advice on how they would be the best candidates for the Orpington constituency. My view? For Hell's sake. Why are the Candidates Department so keen on these foreign names?

"The candidates department are simply rushing these names through.

"They have absolutely no idea about how associations are organised and have zero experience of political campaigning. Their emails are pathetic."

It went on to say: "Maybe I should change my name to something foreign – how does Petrado Indiano Hobbinso sound to you?!"

A second email, allegedly from the councillor, to John Esler criticised the prospective candidates for asking him questions about how to plan a speech, tips on canvassing and what to do if they can't answer a question.

It added that prospective candidates had asked Cllr Hobbins where Orpington was and how to get there.

The email says the questions are "ridiculous" before stating: "I really do not want to read another CV about Africa".

Conservative sources say the emails have left Cllr Hobbins in an almost untenable position as Tory leader David Cameron seeks to modernise the party.

His future outlook appears bleak – but a decision will be reached as to what action is to be taken by a meeting scheduled for the next few days.

Cllr Hobbins is ward councillor for Orpington and failed to win the Rhondda constituency seat in Wales in the 2001 general election. He was unavailable for comment as Kent on Sunday went to press.

Mr Esler said: "Cllr Hobbins shouldn't have sent these emails. They were entirely inappropriate."

This year the current MP for Orpington, John Horam, had announced he would not be standing at the next election, prompting the local association to look for a successor.

A Conservative Party spokesman said: "Cllr Hobbins has been immediately suspended from the Conservative Party and from the Conservative group on Bromley council and will play no part in the selection of the parliamentary candidate. There is no room for racism in the Conservative Party."

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Kent today

TODAY: Showers, some heavy and thundery through the day. Some bright spells in between the showers. Gale force south-westerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F). TONIGHT: Gales. Dry with variable cloud and clear intervals. Near gale force south-westerly winds. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Around Britain

		C	F			C	F
Aberdeen	cloudy	9	48	London	showers	12	54
Belfast	rain	9	48	Liverpool	showers	10	50
Birmingham	rain	11	52	Manchester	rain	10	50
B'mouth	showers	12	54	Newcastle	rain	9	48
Bristol	showers	12	54	Norwich	drizzle	13	55
Cardiff	showers	11	52	Oxford	rain	11	52
Cork	showers	9	48	Southsea	rain	12	54
Edinburgh	showers	9	48	S'hampton	rain	11	52
Glasgow	showers	10	50	Southport	showers	10	50
Isle of Man	showers	11	52	Swansea	showers	11	52
Leeds	showers	8	46	Torquay	rain	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.21am	Sunset	3.37pm	Lighting up times
Moonrise	11.33am	Moonset	5.01pm	3.57pm to 7.27am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	AM		PM		AM		PM	
Dover	01.49	6.2	14.07	5.8	02.30	5.9	14.52	5.5
Margate	02.36	4.4	15.14	4.2	03.13	4.3	15.58	4.0
St Mary's	07.37	5.0	19.56	4.6	08.20	4.8	20.42	4.4

Week ahead

monday: A light shower, max 13C min 10C	thursday: Light showers, max 11C min 5C
tuesday: A light shower, max 13C min 9C	friday: Dull. Rain, max 10C min 5C
wednesday: Showers, max 13C min 7C	saturday: Light showers, max 9C min 4C

Pressure builds to finish Kent TV experiment

OPPOSITION to Kent County Council's online TV station Kent TV is mounting after two highly critical reports on terrestrial television.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Meridian's ITV and BBC South East Today both carried heavily-critical reports of the way KCC had spent £1.6 million on the internet TV station.

It is sure to increase pressure on KCC to quit pouring money into the little known project.

But council leader Paul Carter defended the use of taxpayers' money and told KOS Media that he was "extremely proud" of what it had achieved thus far.

He said there was support in the county and pointed to an online survey which showed 70 per cent support. KOS media found the survey was actually attached to a local news site story about the online soap Hollywould, launched in October. Fewer than 100 people appear to have taken part.

Councillors must decide before Christmas whether to pull the plug on the venture, which is contracted until March.

Politicians and residents speaking to reporters from both Meridian and the BBC on Thursday presented a dim view of how much they valued the service, which costs £600,000 a year to run and only attracts about 2,500 unique visitors a day.

South East minister Jonathan Shaw – the MP for Chatham and Aylesford – told Meridian it seemed an "extraordinary amount of money" to spend.

He added: "All local authorities want to get their message across and promote the services available to residents, but do we really need a television station run by the county council?"

One of the main opponents to the Kent TV contract being extended is Kent's Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean, who last week criticised a review of the service that did not take public opinion into account.

She told Meridian: "I think a lot of the content is fairly boring and I do not think the figures it was predicted to reach in terms of people viewing the site have been reached.

"KCC is now being asked if it wants to continue with it, but there are no figures for what the public thinks. The public is paying for it and we believe there should be an opinion poll before any decision is taken."

Both Meridian and the BBC carried out their own opinion polls on Thursday by asking 15 residents between them whether they had heard of Kent TV and, if so, whether they watched it.

The results showed that only five people had heard of it, and that none of them had ever watched it.

When Kent TV was launched in 2007, run by Bob Geldof's Ten Alps media company, it was intended to be self-funded through funding partnerships with other public bodies and similar schemes by the end of its two-year pilot.

KCC originally budgeted £1.2m for the trial and last year agreed a further £400,000 to cover any extension, which was granted in September when insufficient external revenue was raised.

Under fire

Aside from the issue of spending taxpayers' money on a service few people seem to want, the station has also come under fire as a threat to democracy in Kent.

Professor Tim Luckhurst, from the University of Kent's centre for journalism, told the BBC: "County councils should not be able to own their own broadcast media. It's not something a democratic society should tolerate."

KCC announced last week that due to Government funding cuts it faced a £200m shortfall over the next three years and needs to cut between 600 and 700 jobs.

Cllr Carter told KOS Media: "The review by CapGemini was carried out professionally and took viewing figures and community involvement into account.

"The fact that more than 2.2 million people have sought out and watched Kent TV over the last two years is a strong indicator of public opinion."

Meanwhile, the station missed out on receiving an award at the European eGovernment Awards on Thursday night.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Americans ready to bolster county social work team

RECRUITMENT campaigns have been held in the United States and across Europe to bring more social workers to Kent in the wake of the Baby P case.

The Kent County Council action comes after many UK social workers turned their backs on the profession after criticism following the tragic death of little Peter Connelly – Baby P.

A Local Government Association (LGA) survey revealed that six in 10 local authorities were having difficulty holding on to frontline staff – up by 50 per cent since last year. But KCC has invested £1.5 million to recruit social workers and has filled almost 100 vacancies.

Campaigns in the USA and Europe led to 40 more social workers joining the authority, on top of 57 newly-qualified from the UK.

Gary Cooke, deputy cabinet member for Children, Families and Education, said: "We have recruited more than 90 social workers, both experienced and newly-qualified.

Campaign

"After a recruitment campaign in the USA, 29 people accepted posts and are due to start work in February. We offered nine jobs to social workers after a similar campaign in Europe."

He said retaining frontline social workers had been a problem across the country.

"The publicity after Baby P has not helped, but there is also a national shortage," he said.

"Kent has a good reputation for training and supporting staff. This helps to retain experienced workers and attract new people. They work in difficult and challenging circumstances and I am extremely proud of them."

LGA chairwoman Shireen Ritchie said councils had to make sure social workers felt valued and supported.

She said: "Social workers protect thousands of children from neglect and abuse on a daily basis, but have been put through the mill.

"People who care about the safety of children should understand that social workers are the solution, not the problem."

Man is held after woman stabbed

A WOMAN has died after being stabbed at a house in Greatstone.

Police were called to the address in Hardy Road at about 10am on Friday and found the woman with multiple stab wounds.

Paramedics rushed to the property, but the woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

A police officer said: "South East Coast Ambulance were attending to a 28-year-old female who received a stab wound.

"She was pronounced dead at the scene and a 40-year-old man has been arrested."

Police have questioned neighbours about the incident but said most of them were away at work when it happened.

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Family and Army hail a 'true hero'

Soldier shot dead in Helmand was 'beloved son and devoted father'

A KENT soldier killed this week in Afghanistan has been described as a "true hero" by his grieving family, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Sergeant Robert Loughran-Dickson, from Deal, was shot on Wednesday night while on a routine patrol in the Nad-e-Ali district of Helmand Province

The 33-year-old, who was known as Rob or L-D to his friends, had been in the Army for 12 years and was serving with the Royal Military Police when he was killed. His family paid tribute to the father-of-one, who leaves behind 17-year-old son Robert.

"He is a true hero in many ways of whom the whole family is extremely proud. He gave the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved and was devoted to.

"A beloved father, son, brother and uncle. You lit up our lives and that light will stay bright for ever. You will be greatly missed, but always loved by all."

Secretary of State for Defence Bob Ainsworth also paid tribute to the soldier. He said: "I was very saddened to learn of the death of Sgt Robert Loughran-Dickson.

"His commanders describe him as an exceptional soldier and I know his loss will be felt greatly among his colleagues and friends in the Royal Military Police."

Sgt Loughran-Dickson attended primary and secondary schools in Deal before enlisting into the Army's Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1997.

He transferred to the Royal Military Police in 2001 and was deployed on operations in Kosovo, Iraq, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan.

He held a number of posts during his time in the Army and was a crime reduction and local intelligence officer when he died.

This involved working with schools, giving presentations and processing intelligence and it was through this role he was promoted to sergeant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Debbie Poneskis, commanding officer of the 4th Regiment, Royal Military Police, said he would be sorely missed.

"He was totally professional, easy company and the first to volunteer for anything," she said.

"I had absolute faith in Sgt Loughran-Dickson. He was utterly reliable, wise beyond his years and simply got on with the job quietly and without fuss.

"He was an extremely proud father and his son Robert is a credit to him."

Captain Karen Tait, operations officer at 160 Provost Company and one of Sgt Loughran-Dickson's good friends, echoed the words of Lt-Col Poneskis.

"He was a true friend who I will deeply miss and even now cannot comprehend the void he will leave, not only in me but those he has served with and those he loved deeply and who loved him," she said.

"I was proud and honoured to serve with him, but above all being able to call him my friend. His smile I will miss the most."

TRUE HERO: Sgt Robert Loughran-Dickson, from Deal

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www.kentnews.co.uk

Operation Stack starts as vicious winds shut port

THE M20 motorway turned into a parking lot again this week as Operation Stack was bought into action.

High winds caused disruption to cross-Channel ferry traffic and at one stage the Port of Dover was closed for safety reasons.

Operation Stack

Across the Channel, rough weather also forced berths in Calais out of service.

Ferry firms advised travellers to consider whether their journey was necessary and suggested alternative dates for trips to France.

A spokesman for P&O Ferries said: "We've had to cope with some vicious weather. In some cases two tugs had to be used to bring a ship into port.

"At one point Dover was closed for five hours and this just adds to the pressure.

"There were also berths closed in Calais. The ports know we can bring a ship alongside – but if a 60-knot gust of wind hits at the wrong time the ship can smash into the berth.

"Damage like that takes months to repair so it's a risk that can't be taken. A 30,000-tonne ship smashing into a berth is a very serious matter indeed.

"As winds change direction, berths become unusable and that is what we have seen this week."

Operation Stack closed the M20 eastbound between Junctions 10 and 12 so lorries could be held. Other traffic was forced to use the A20 between Ashford and Cheriton.

• ***Why we need a proper parking facility for trucks. Comment – page 32.***

Want a letter from Santa?

SANTA'S elves are starting their Christmas duties early this year as the NSPCC launches its Letter from Santa appeal in Kent.

The initiative gives parents, grandparents, friends and carers the chance to nominate a child to receive a letter from Father Christmas for a suggested donation of £5.

The letter is personalised with the child's name and age, in a hand script font and on quality colourful paper. The envelope shows that it has been safely delivered through 'Express Rudolph Mail'.

Helen Herbert of the NSPCC said: "Letter from Santa is a great way to make a child feel extra special. The appeal also helps us support children who are perhaps not as fortunate.

"Christmas isn't a time of celebration for every child. During last year's holiday period our ChildLine service counselled 3,500 children who were in danger or distress and had nowhere else to turn.

"By backing this appeal you will be helping provide support, advice and protection for children in desperate need of help."

Visit www.nspcc.org.uk/santa or call 0845 839 9304 for more details.

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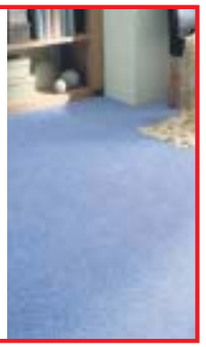

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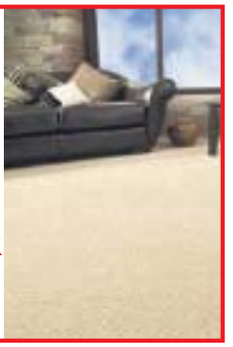

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By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Improvement to dementia care needed as NHS fails sufferers

HOSPITALS in the South East have been criticised for the "scandalous" standards of care afforded to people with dementia.

According to a report by the Alzheimer's Society, patients suffering from the brain disorder occupy a quarter of all beds in the region and often spend far longer in hospital than others who are admitted for the same treatment.

The charity is now calling for better training in dementia care for nurses and other staff to improve standards on wards.

Chris Wyatt, area manager for the South East, said: "The NHS could save at least £80 million a year if people with dementia were enabled to leave hospital one week earlier.

"Some vast improvements in care can be made quickly and at low cost if medical professionals are equipped with an understanding of dementia and a willingness to change their approach."

Dementia is a term used to describe various different disorders associated with an ongoing decline of the brain and its functions, including memory, judgement and language.

According to the Alzheimer's Society there are currently 700,000 people living with the illness in the UK, with the figure expected to soar to 1.7 million by 2051.

Maidstone resident Cheryle Lewis agrees with the charity's view that hospital staff need better training in dementia care, following her experience at Maidstone Hospital late last month.

Her 66-year-old mother Valerie Hills was admitted to the hospital on October 20, with a urinary infection and suspected stroke, but Mrs Lewis said very few nurses fully understood her condition and that communication between them was poor.

She said: "Nobody seemed to have the time or understanding to deal with her. When mum was admitted she was left to sit in the medical assessment unit for hours and all we would get is that the staff were very busy.

"People would be holding their children because there was this mad woman screaming and shouting, and I don't see why I should have had to tell everyone what was wrong with her.

"There needs to be a specialist unit or room within a hospital where you are able to just talk to someone who understands, and that when you go back you know there is someone who gets what is wrong with your mum or dad.

"It would be nice just to have someone smile."

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said the hospital was sorry to hear about Mrs Lewis' concerns, and that it would be contacting her as soon as possible.

Complained

He added: "We always do our best to treat all our patients with the care and dignity to which they are entitled. As the Alzheimer's Society report makes clear, there are particular challenges in caring for people with dementia and our nurses and doctors work hard to overcome those problems."

According to the report, 78 per cent of carers in the South East were disappointed with the quality of dementia care in hospitals while 70 per cent said they complained or wanted to complain.

In addition, 87 per cent of nurses questioned said they found working with dementia challenging while 57 per cent said they did not receive any dementia training.

Kent's three remaining acute hospital trusts – Medway, East Kent, and Dartford and Gravesham – all said they were committed to improving the quality of care for dementia patients.

Medway and Dartford and Gravesham said they would be providing improved training for doctors and nurses, while East Kent revealed it had recently launched a new service for dementia patients.

Director of nursing Julie Pearce said: "These patients need specialist care and we have worked with the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust to develop a liaison psychiatry service in our hospitals, which includes specific provision for elderly care.

"Highly-skilled liaison nurses support hospital staff caring for dementia patients, providing both on-the-spot advice and structured training."

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O'Grady 'gutted' as pet dog dies

CHAT show king Paul O'Grady's pet dog Buster has died at the age of 14.

The shih tzu and bichon frise cross, who appeared regularly on O'Grady's Channel 4 chatshow, was reportedly put to sleep after being diagnosed with cancer.

A source said: "It all happened suddenly. Buster had been suffering and in a lot of pain. Putting him down was the kind thing to do."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the comedian confirmed the news by saying that O'Grady, who lives on a farm at Aldington, near Ashford, is "absolutely gutted".

Buster was frequently seen on O'Grady's desk as the star read his postbag messages on air. However, earlier this month it was announced the popular pet had retired.

Drink binge ends with store arrest

SHOPLIFTER Damian Moore, 23, could not remember stealing a bottle of vodka from a Canterbury supermarket.

When arrested he admitted to police he had been drinking non-stop for three months, a court heard.

But CCTV operators spotted him and Moore, of Cumberland Avenue, Canterbury, admitted the theft when he was shown a tape taken in the Netto store.

Teresa Ruiz, prosecuting at Canterbury Magistrates Court, said Moore ran off towards the nearby Lidl shop.

He will be sentenced on Thursday next week after probation reports are prepared.

Baroness could face fraud charge over her £100,000 expenses

BRITAIN'S first female Muslim peer could face criminal charges for allegedly claiming £100,000 in allowances for a property she barely occupied, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Residents living near Baroness Uddin's two-bedroom flat in Maidstone say the building has lain empty since it was purchased back in 2005, despite the 50-year-old Bangladeshi having registered it as her main home.

According to national newspaper reports, she is one of six MPs and peers who could face criminal charges of fraud following investigations by Scotland Yard into the abuse of the Parliamentary expenses system.

Formerly the deputy leader of Tower Hamlets council in east London, Lady Uddin – who also rents a property in Wapping – was elevated to the House of Lords in 1998.

Breached

It is alleged that by purchasing the Maidstone flat she has been able to claim about £30,000 per year in overnight subsistence allowance available to peers who live outside the capital and need somewhere to stay when they attend Parliament.

However, Lady Uddin denied the allegations when they were first levelled at her by the Sunday Times back in May.

She said: "I do not believe I have done anything wrong or breached any House of Lords rules.

WAITING: Baroness Uddin may be charged

"The Wapping house is rented while I own the property in Maidstone.The Maidstone property is furnished and I strongly deny that I have never lived there. Indeed I have stayed there regularly since buying it."

According to a report in The Daily Telegraph, the Crown Prosecution Service is expected to decide whether to prosecute Lady Uddin and the others accused by as early as January.

Director of public prosecutions Keir Starmer will determine whether the politicians face court on counts of fraud – which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years – or false accounting, for which the maximum penalty is seven years.

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You and whose army?

WHO doesn't wonder what they would splash out on with a decent lottery win? Well, one Kent man knew exactly what he was going to do with his millions – add to his Action Man collection.

Tony Wells-Stubley, 42, said: "I got my first one when I was five and have been hooked ever since."

Before he scooped £2,213,141 in August 2004, he had about 60 of the toy soldiers, which were known as GI Joe in the United States before a British company bought permission to rename them Action Man in the UK.

Now he has more than 160, along with a vast array of the uniforms and equipment that made the toy such a favourite with boys of all ages. Tony has sunk about £13,000 into the collection, which he keeps at his home in Medway. He said: "My wife thinks it's all a little bizarre, but she understands boys' toys.

"She doesn't really mind. We all need a hobby and this is mine. I've been collecting them from all over the world for decades.

"I scour the internet looking for new finds. I like the rare ones and I get all the newly-released collectors' items.

"I'd love to put them on permanent display, but I'm still in collection mode at the moment. Some time in the future, when it has grown more I'll start thinking about putting them out for people to see.

"I was asked by the Lottery to pose for exhibition pictures at Fort Amherst, Chatham, which is where I got married."

The photgraphic exhibition, by award-winning photographer Edmond Terakopian, marks 15 years of the lottery.

It shows some of the more unusual purchases made by lottery millionaires and was on show at Fulham Palace, London.

Mmore than 2,300 millionaires have been created by the National Lottery and more than £23 billion raised for good causes.

THINKING BIG: Lottery millionaire Tony plans to display his Action Man collection one day

Forging ahead at Farriers Arms

By **ED HILL**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PUB that was rescued from closure by villagers will officially open next weekend after months of refurbishment work.

The Farriers Arms in Mersham, near Ashford, dates back to the 1600s. It closed last year after the former landlord suddenly left, leaving the pub in a poor state of repair.

The plan to rescue the village local was the idea of businessman Richard Bishop.

He issued shares for a new company and negotiated a deal to buy it from its former owners, pub chain Punch Taverns.

At the time of the takeover, he said: "It was clear that local people had such strong feelings about the pub that they wanted to help.

"I was born in the village and for me it was always the best pub for miles.

"It has every ingredient you could ever want for a successful pub."

They had to raise £430,000 to buy the inn, then find more funds to carry out the renovation work.

The pub boasts its own trout stream in the back garden and is said to have a resident-ghost. It was a haunt of smugglers bringing their ill-gotten gains from Romney Marsh.

Now after five months of hard work from villagers the pub is about to re-open. Each shareholder has invested at least £1,000.

They do get some tax benefits through the enterprise investment scheme, but believe that with the new investment and enthusiastic backers the pub can be viable as a business again.

Much of the refurbishment work has been done free by the villagers themselves.

A new manger has been appointed to run the pub and it will officially open to the general public next weekend.

June Ballard, who is the assistant manager at the pub, said: "We are all really excited, the work is nearly finished and we have already staged an evening especially for the shareholders."

PUMP ACTION: Assistant manager June Ballard pulls a pint at the newly refurbished Farriers Arms, which was bought by villagers

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Call for action on struggling schools

EDUCATION chiefs say they are working hard to improve Kent's struggling secondary schools and rescue them from possible closure, ***writes Steve Knight.***

This week Schools Secretary Ed Balls wrote to local authorities to express his concern at the lack of action at 50 schools where less than 27 per cent of pupils achieved at least five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and Maths.

However, despite fears there are five in Kent that will not reach the target of 30 per cent by 2011, no such letter was sent to County Hall.

Cllr Jenny Whittle, Kent County Council's deputy cabinet member for learning and development, said: "We are already working with National Challenge advisers who are taking stock with us on progress made to date.

"They will report to KCC and the Secretary of State shortly with their findings and recommendations.

"I am also visiting National Challenge schools to speak with heads and governors about the work they are doing to raise standards. We are also working alongside academies in the county which are also in this position but are accountable directly to the Secretary of State."

Mr Balls' main concern is that some local authorities are not making proper use of the powers already available to them, such as issuing warning notices.

He also wants to see more struggling schools turned into academies or linked with trusts.

Cllr Whittle said: "Kent has already exercised its statutory powers in developing new school organisation partnerships, including federations between schools and academies.

"This has seen great improvements in many schools.

"We know there is more to do and we will work proactively with our schools and a range of partners to reach the national target by 2011 or before."

Last year the Government placed 33 of Kent's secondary schools on its National Challenge scheme – the highest number of any local authority in the country.

Of the 22 that have not yet passed the 30 per cent benchmark, 11 are now within four per cent and a further six are on course to rise above it by 2011.

Mr Balls announced in September he would be sending advisers into the county to help with the improvements.

He said at the time: "I've always said that non-selective schools in selective areas face extra challenges.

"There's no doubt in my mind that if you have a new cohort of young people who have all arrived in secondary school having been told they did not succeed, then you have the greater issues around aspiration and belief."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Whatever you want

DEVOTED Status Quo fans snapped up more than 1,000 tickets to the veteran rockers' Castle Concerts show within the first six hours.

First-day sales eclipsed those for Quo's 2008 concert, which saw the entire 4,500 Rochester Castle gardens allocation sell out in just a week.

Medway Council's community services chief Howard Doe urged rock fans to get their tickets now.

He said: "Status Quo are one of the most popular acts ever to play the Castle Concerts. It looks like this show will sell out soon, so I urge anyone hoping for a ticket not to leave it too late."

Tickets cost £35 and are available in person at the Central and Brook theatre box offices and Medway Visitor Information Centre; by phone on 01634 338338; or online at www.castleconcerts.co.uk. The full summer 2010 concerts line-up will be announced in the New Year.

STATUS QUO: Rick Parfitt, left, and Francis Rossi

'Stalker' suspect

A MAN accused of a series of sex attacks on elderly women has been remanded in custody to appear in court again this week.

The alleged 'Night Stalker' Delroy Grant, 52, of Brockley, south-east London, appeared at Greenwich Magistrates' Court and was ordered to appear at Woolwich Crown Court on Thursday.

He was charged with five rapes, six indecent assaults and 11 burglaries when he appeared at the same court on Monday.

Prosecutors said further charges were likely.

He is accused of attacks at addresses in Orpington, Warlingham, Addiscombe, Bromley, West Dulwich, and Beckenham between October, 1992,, and May, this year.

Grant, dressed in a white prison issue tracksuit, spoke only to confirm his name.

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Culture and tourism minister admires results of cash injection at coastal towns

Financial tide bringing about a Sea Change

A RECREATION of the court of King Henry II at Dover Castle was visited by Government minister Margaret Hodge, who wanted to see how money from the Sea Change programme had been spent, ***writes Nick Ames***.

The culture and tourism minister spent an hour in the castle keep where rooms have been transformed into 12th century royal apartments and a kitchen.

Earlier she had visited Dreamland in Margate, which is to be transformed into a heritage amusement park featuring vintage rides and carousels. The medieval interior at Dover was recreated by English Heritage after a £3.85 million grant from the Sea Change project which seeks to regenerate coastal towns.

"The whole thing is very impressive and shows what can be done when money is made available," said Ms Hodge.

Dreamland is the latest beneficiary of the project and will be getting £3.7m.

"I remember coming to the park as a child in the 1950s," said Ms Hodge. "It was always very busy and I recall riding the rollercoaster and ghost train."

At Dover Castle, Ms Hodge was met by town MP Gwyn Prosser. Henry II is believed to have stayed in the castle at least five times with his retinue of knights, servants and courtiers.

DREAMLAND VISIT: Margaret Hodge

He lavished money on the castle to counter the shrine which sprang up in Canterbury after the death of Archbishop Thomas Becket, who was killed by knights who believed they were acting in the royal interest.

The monarch spent at least £6,440 throughout the 1180s – more than a quarter of his average annual income – building and furnishing the impressive keep at the castle, according to a study of his finances by John Gillingham, Professor Emeritus in medieval history at the London School of Economics.

Prof Gillingham said the king was worried about Becket's cult after his martyrdom in 1170. "Henry was eager to impress his audience amid the rise of a religious, some say anti-monarchical, cult around Becket," he said.

"Improving the castle at Canterbury was an uncomfortable option because royal power would always be overshadowed by the power of the saint – not the message Henry wished to send."

The Archbishop was murdered in the cathedral by the knights acting on the rash words of the king, who is said to have proclaimed in a fit of temper: "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?"

Full of remorse, Henry did penance on the Pope's orders, walking in sackcloth and ashes to the cathedral, where he was flogged by monks. Becket was canonised in 1173 and Henry became uneasy about the growing popularity of the martyr.

The idea for improving Dover Castle came in 1179, Prof Gillingham said, when Louis VII of France arrived on a state visit. The king decided he needed to show how important he was to foreign leaders.

"When Louis comes, Henry realises there is likely to be a very significant international element to the cult of Thomas Becket," the professor said.

"If princes are going to be coming across the Channel, then Henry needs to be able to receive them in a proper fashion."

To see this search 'Hodge' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

See Margaret Hodge's visits to Dover Castle and Margate's Dreamland in two short films

Medway scenes feature in controversial gangster film

A VIOLENT gangster movie slated for its "vile and degrading" sexual nature will feature scenes shot in Kent when it is released next year.

Killer Bitch has been deemed so offensive that even I'm a Celebrity contestant Katie Price asked her cross-dressing cage-fighter boyfriend Alex Reid to pull out.

The film – which now stars former WBC super middleweight champion Robin Reid – is due to reach cinema screens in February, and last week scenes were shot at the Beacon Court Tavern in Gillingham and on the beach at Upnor, near Rochester.

UNDER FIRE: Yvette Rowland in Killer Bitch

Director Liam Galvin told KOS Media he felt criticism of the film, which included the News of the World describing it as "vile and degrading", was unwarranted.

He said: "The criticism is based on one scene the press felt was a rape scene, even though no-one had actually seen the footage.

"It's actually a passionate love scene between two people. There are advantages of any form of publicity because it gets the film known, but the reports are inaccurate.

"All I will say is that we wish [Alex Reid] the best of luck and that we are very happy with the guy who has taken over his part."

Despite negative comments being made about the movie, many have been posted on the film's official website.

When asked why, Mr Galvin said: "We are a small organisation and can't compete with the world's press, so either we constantly fight against it or we embrace it. Now it's up to the public to decide. It's violent and it's sexy, but we'd ask people to reserve judgment until after they've actually seen it."

According to Mr Galvin, Killer Bitch is about a woman (played by former Byker Grove star Yvette Rowland) who is forced to kill five people or her own family will be murdered.

Starring such underworld characters as Dave Courtney and Mitch Pyle, the movie also features 'Lotto lout' Michael Carroll and a specially-recorded voiceover by arguably Britain's most violent prisoner, Charles Bronson.

Mr Galvin said: "It was useful shooting in Medway and everyone was very charming."

Isobel's Freedom Pass milestone

THE 20,000 youngster will be given their Kent Freedom Pass next week, under the scheme which gives under-16s unlimited bus travel in the county for £50 a year.

Isobel Wilbourne, of St George's School, Ramsgate, will be presented with her pass by Cllr Nick Chard, the man responsible for Kent's highways.

Cllr Chard said: "The Kent Freedom Pass is something young people asked for and KCC has delivered. I'm pleased that 20,000 pupils have taken up this innovative offer."

Students aged up to 16 can use the Kent Freedom Pass to travel by bus anytime, anywhere, in return for a £50 annual fee.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/kentfreedompass for more details.

Home is where the art is

OPEN HOUSE: Baldwin sculpture at gallery

AN ARTIST has used the idea of traditional Russian dolls inside one another to come up with a novel artistic statement on the shrinking size of people's homes, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Andy Baldwin's mechanical sculptures are fascinating visitors at an exhibition in Canterbury.

The Kent-based artist is showing his bizarre works at the city's Sidney Cooper Gallery in a show called Nesting.

One piece, called House, is a mansion which repeatedly opens dolls' house style, showing smaller and smaller homes, then a caravan, and finally a man made out of concrete, representing rock bottom in the housing market.

The artist said the sculptures are based around the concept of home and the character we project onto our own personal space.

Shelters

It was created in response to his concern about homelessness and the lack of emergency shelters in Kent, where the identity of the housing overshadows the character of the individual.

Mr Baldwin said: "I wanted to show alternative living. We could all end up homeless and on the street at any time, and it's not just the people in small homes.

"Those in big houses can also suddenly face a bad time and lose everything."

Another work is a large rotating wheel with photographs attached, producing a continual cycle of house images."

Mr Baldwin added: "The pictures show some of the more unusual places people call home. There are boats, a bread van, and a variety of other unusual locations and items used for people to live in.

"I am all for alternative living, and wanted to share these visions with a wider audience who may not know these places exist."

ALL CHANGE: Rotating picture wheel

The exhibition runs until December 12 and the gallery in St Peter's Street is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am-5.30pm, and Saturday from noon-5.30pm.

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Teenager signed up after being seen on internet

YouTube to record deal for young singer CJ

SITTING PRETTY: CJ Morgan has recorded her first single after being noticed singing on YouTube

A TEENAGER from Gravesend has bypassed TV talent shows and gone straight to a record deal after being spotted on YouTube, ***writes Chris Murphy.***

CJ Morgan is only 14 but has been signed up and her first single, Lonely, is out in the new year. Two more tracks are being lined up.

CJ, real name Claudia, said: "I was doing a rehearsal for a show and someone was filming it.

"They put it on the internet and I was spotted from there. It saved a lot of time trying to get on shows like X Factor and now I am keeping my fingers crossed it all goes well when the single comes out next year."

She was spotted by chance by someone skimming though amateur singers on the popular YouTube site.

They mentioned her to top producer David A Nash, who has worked with the likes of Michael Jackson, Madonna, Westlife, and Five. He has also worked on West End shows Les Miserables, Joseph and Oliver!

CJ, a pupil at St John's Catholic Comprehensive, said: "I went to London and we had the song done in about four hours, which was brilliant.

"I am now learning the next one, and hope to be recording that soon. I can't believe it's all happened so fast. It's amazing that someone can be spotted on YouTube and the next minute have a contract and be recording at an EMI studio in London.

"It's all been a bit of a whirl, but I'm enjoying it and keeping my feet on the ground."

Fans of CJ got a chance to see her in action at the Woodville Halls when she took part in Gifted Young Gravesham, or GYG.

She said: "The show is for people under 18 to showcase what they do and get used to being on stage while getting their name out there a little more.

"I took part last year and it was such fun I had to do it again."

On her future career, David from Basstone Music, said: "We've had the song for five years and had tried it with a few singers, but it's a very innocent track so they always seemed too old. We needed someone with raw talent.

"CJ worked hard in the studio and did all the vocals in one day. She had no idea how it all worked and that was beautiful to watch."

This year, GYG put on 25 acts with performances from young singers, dancers , bands and cabaret. You can hear Lonely at www.myspace.com/distinctivemusiclimited.

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Cricket with a spin

THE Kent Visually Impaired Junior Cricket Team will be officially launched in Sidcup next weekend.

It is a young team with a developing squad of players from the London boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich and the towns of Maidstone and Ashford.

The team were runners-up in the Cricket for Change county tournament at Lord's and coach Tony Joseph said things were looking promising.

Mr Joseph said: "Training takes place on the last Saturday of every month, except for December when the session is on the 12th, at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School between 10am and noon and we welcome any players aged 10-17 to the sessions.

"They don't have to be of county standard just yet as the basics can be taught relatively quickly.

"There are some slight rule changes and the ball is larger and makes a sound, otherwise it is cricket as you know it.

"One of the most promising players in the squad is Sam Dale from Ashford, who is only 10 but a consistent all rounder and at times captains the team.

"We will be inviting England internationals Matt Dean and Si Ledworth to join us at the next training session to pass on tips and advice at our official launch on Saturday, November 28."

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Dresses need their brides

A BRIDAL gown supplier in the county town is trying to track down customers who ordered dresses before a wedding shop suddenly closed down.

Renaissance Couture, in Bank Street, Maidstone, unexpectedly ceased trading in September, leaving brides-to-be without wedding dresses for their big day.

Trudy Lee, a supplier for the company, is now trying to trace any brides who have orders with them through the town centre store.

A number of Renaissance Couture's customers have already been in touch with the supplier, but for those with outstanding orders they can call Trudy Lee on 01707 643633.

Jail for pregnant woman's attacker

A WOMAN driver who beat a pregnant woman in a savage road rage attack has been sent to jail.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Leanne Smith, 24, from Dartford, punched her 32-year-old victim repeatedly in the face before driving into her as she tried to call the police. Smith, of Cliffside Court, West Hill, was handed a nine-month prison sentence when she appeared at Woolwich Crown Court, London, on Monday, having previously pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm.

The attack took place in Highland Road, Bexleyheath, on Monday, March 16, of this year.

Despite a fractured cheekbone and swelling to both her pelvic area and feet, the mum's baby was unharmed when it was born four months later.

Deliberate

Det Con Rhana Dhillon of Bexley police's CID said: "What makes this case even more horrific is that the victim was heavily pregnant, and despite being told this Smith continued to assault the victim and deliberately drove into her.

"I am just thankful the baby was unharmed and is healthy."

Short-tempered Smith flew off the handle when her victim – who was accompanied by her 30-year-old sister – pulled out in front of her while driving through Crayford.

Despite raising her left hand to apologise, the woman was followed for about two miles until the two vehicles stopped at the traffic lights.

At this point Smith exited her car and began to shout and swear at her victim before punching her through the partially-open driver's side window, ignoring the sister's pleas to stop before eventually turning on her as well.

When the five-months-pregnant woman got out of her vehicle to call the police, Smith ended her tussle with the sister, got back into her car and drove straight at the mum-to-be.

The victim was later taken by ambulance to Darenth Valley Hospital after Smith had fled the scene.

Coincidentally, less than a week following the incident the victim spotted her attacker in Dartford and followed her for two hours while she ate in a restaurant, went shopping and then back to her flat.

She also made a note of Smith's car registration number before passing her details onto the police, who subsequently made the arrest.

DC Dhillon said: "I would like to thank the victim for her vigilance and determination.

"If she had not spotted the suspect at a later stage, we may not have obtained the crucial lead we needed."

DIY calendar girl shows she's got heart for charity

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE deaths of her mother, grandmother and father-in-law by heart conditions helped convince one Kent office worker she needed to do something to help others.

And she came up with a charity calendar with a difference – all scenes from famous British sit-coms.

Carolyn Trice, a personnel administrator for Homebase in Maidstone, said: "I wanted to do something for the British Heart Foundation because of the amazing work it does. And at this time of year, people are thinking about getting a calendar, so I thought why not produce one."

But this is a little more modest than the many naked ones on the market these days.

Carolyn said: "I didn't want to do that as we are all too modest and shy anyway, and it has been done lots of times. That's why I suggested we do scenes from traditional British comedies and everyone was pleased to join in."

The Homebase staff got together six weeks ago and produced 12 classic shots from shows including Steptoe and Son, Little Britain and the Royle Family.

Steve Lidstone, the company's operations team leader at the Aylesford base, said: "The company agreed to print these for free for us, so every penny from the sale will go to the charity. We are asking for a minimum donation of £5 per calendar. We have an initial delivery of 500 which means £2,500 for the BHF. If this is a success, we will arrange a second print run.

SITUATIONAL: Little Britain and Steptoe and Son are amongst the shows featured

"Personally I think we can sell at least 2,000 making a £10,000 donation.

"If they sell well and quickly in my store, then they have the potential to be sold in all 350 Homebase stores around the UK."

Carolyn added: "This is a project that is close to my heart, if you excuse the pun, because of what happened to my family. I lost my mother a few years ago, and my dad has just had a quad heart by-pass.

"I am keen for the money we raise to be spent on defibrillators which can help save lives. If someone has a heart attack, using one of these will give them a 40 per cent better chance of survival."

Teen uses his talent to organise festive party

TENACIOUS teen Sam Bradley has organised the ultimate Christmas party: a star-studded bash at London's O2 arena.

Amy Winehouse's god-daughter Dionne Bromfield – who last month performed on Strictly Come Dancing – is among the acts lined up for Talent at Christmas, at the Indigo superclub on Monday, December 21.

Sidcup resident Sam, 17, is the brains behind the event, which will also give upcoming acts the opportunity to win time in a recording studio, PR consultation and exposure to major record labels.

And despite having to juggle his A-levels throughout months of planning, the City of London Academy student said he was confident it would prove worthwhile.

He said: "It's been my biggest challenge ever, but I thoroughly enjoy it... I've put on similar events at smaller venues, but it was a good way to test the water somewhere big like Indigo, which holds about 2,500 people."

Sam's first brush with the world of event management came through his GCSE business course, with a work experience placement at McLaren enabling him to help organise occasions as large as Nelson Mandela's birthday party.

He then seized another opportunity after starting his A-levels when he met the managing director of public relations firm Hudson PR, who was so impressed by his enthusiasm that she invited him for a work placement earlier this year.

Sam used his new-found ties with the firm to help him secure the Indigo gig.

He said: "I wanted to do something like this because when I was a younger there was just nothing to do for under-18s at Christmas. The feedback has been very good so far... but we'll be judged on the night."

See www.talentatchristmas.com for details.

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'Seeda has put millions into Kent'

SEEDA'S new chairman has disputed claims the agency cannot effectively serve the people of Kent, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Earlier this year county council leader Cllr Paul Carter said he thought KCC could spend Government cash more efficiently than "an unelected representative sitting in an office in Guildford", which is where the South East England Development Agency is based.

However, business consultant Rob Douglas, who took up the chairmanship on November 2, said the county had fared better than most in terms of funding.

He said: "It's true that we do cover a very large region with a big population, but Seeda has been very active in Kent and continues to be so.

"We've recently put £7.3 million into the Canterbury Innovation Centre, as well as large amounts into projects like the Turner Contemporary in Margate.

"Over 10 years we have also helped secure £160m of public sector money for Chatham Maritime, which in turn has led to an extra £700m of private sector funding. Kent has been one of the major recipients of Seeda funds."

Set up in 1999, Seeda is responsible for the economic and social development of a region that is home to more than eight million people and bigger in size than Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland combined.

Cllr Carter's thinly-veiled swipe at the agency in August came as the County Hall chief threw his weight behind Conservative proposals to drastically reduce the number of quangos (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations) in the UK. Tory leader David Cameron has pledged to do so if his party wins the next general election, but has not yet indicated which might be in line for the axe.

ROB DOUGLAS

However, Mr Douglas said the speculation will have no bearing on how he approaches his new job.

He said: "I'm not a politician and it is they who will decide what sort of structures they want at a regional level, but I believe there needs to be something between the national and local levels and that some of the programmes already in place should remain.

"For every pound Seeda spent between 2002 and 2007, the taxpayer received £5.60 back in terms of value added to the local and regional economy, so it's clear we have been doing worthwhile things and it's important they aren't just swept away.

"But I'll leave it to the politicians to decide what is best. Part of my challenge is not to worry about the future and do the best I possibly can for the region."

Mr Douglas, 61, was previously a senior executive for Shell and represented the oil company as far afield as Italy, Belgium and China. He also joined Seeda's board of directors in 2001, acting as deputy chairman from 2003 until 2007, when he left the agency.

Listing his top priority as helping South East businesses survive the recession, Mr Douglas was quick to distance himself from the allegations of money-wasting that haunted his predecessor, Jim Brathwaite.

Mr Brathwaite received criticism for claiming about £50,000 in expenses per year for taxi journeys, but Mr Douglas said he was more likely to use public transport or his own car.

He said: "Jim worked tirelessly for the region, and all his travel was absolutely to help the region. But I agree with the need for transparency and to be accountable for how taxpayers' money is spent, so I'll make sure it's spent as efficiently as possible.

"I live close to a main-line station and am used to using public transport. I also have a senior citizen's bus pass."

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HOSPITAL bosses are to tighten security after three laptops were stolen within four weeks.

The computers – containing health records – were taken from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust hospitals in July and August. One was not encrypted and had audiology test results for 33 patients.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) found the trust in breach of the Data Protection Act and urged it to act. Trust chief executive Glenn Douglass has now signed an agreement with the ICO in which he promises to improve security.

The agreement orders the trust to identify and encrypt any personal data held on a laptop or other removable media used by the hospital within the next six months.

As well as test results, the first laptop held personal data recorded between 2006 and 2009 and details for an unknown number of patients between 2003 and 2006.

Crowds flock as world's top shoe designer offers cut-price range at fashion store

Fashionistas hit Bluewater for Choo line

BEST FOOT FORWARD: The launch of the Jimmy Choo range caused mass hysteria

IT WAS handbags at dawn for hundreds of women at Bluewater's H&M this week as they flocked to buy a pair of luxury Jimmy Choo shoes, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Some desperate shoppers even queued for up to 14 hours prior to the launch with others setting up camp throughout the night with their sleeping bags.

Others have admitted to visiting the Kent shopping centre every day this week to check out the glamorous styles.

The new Jimmy Choo line, which is being brought to just 17 H&M stores in the UK, has caused mass hysteria for fashion lovers in Kent as they rush to buy the funky shoes and clothes made famous by the world's celebrities.

But unlike the stars, shoppers at H&M can avoid the £1,000-plus price tags and pick up shoes from £79.99, accessories from £14.99, handbags from £99.99 and dresses from £150.

Men are also catered for, with a selection of clothes and footwear.

FELINE GREAT: TV broadcaster Cat Deely models a pair of Jimmy Choo's creations

Tamara Mellon, founder and president at Jimmy Choo Ltd, said: "The collection at H&M is full of fun, one-off items with an accessible and glamorous identity made with stylish materials, emphasised with colour and embellishment.

"I wanted to create pieces that would reach a cool and young customer with a fashionable and independent sense of spirit in this one-off collaboration."

Jimmy Choo, OBE, originally from Penang in Malaysia, shot to success in 1988, when his designs were featured over eight pages in Vogue magazine.

His creations have been made famous over the years, appearing in numerous magazines and on red carpets at glitzy Hollywood events.

Leah Barrett, 32, from Dartford, queued for 14 hours prior to the launch.

"Jimmy Choo is one of my favourite designers. I'm after the black and blue ankle strap shoes and some jewellery.

"I've been to Bluewater five times this week to find out about the shoes."

Margaret van den Bosch, creative advisor at H&M, said the collection will suit anyone with a flair for fashion and high heels.

"This Autumn, Jimmy Choo brings vitality and sexy glamour to H&M," she said.

"I love the strappy sandals with lots of decoration and attitude, matched with clean-cut, 80s inspired clothes.

"Designer Tamara Mellon always shows her amazing shoes with equally amazing clothes and we wanted to offer our customers a complete collection – including men's shoes and clothes too."

For more information visit www.hm.com.

BLUEWATER is getting ready for the Christmas rush with more than six million shoppers expected through its doors.

And to make sure guests are in festive spirits, a magical Winter Wonderland has been opened with a giant ice rink and funfair – complete with a 33m-high big wheel – plus Santa and his team of 25 elves will give away thousands of presents.

A specialist team have spent a total of 1,400 hours installing custom-made decorations, including giant baubles and stars and 36 illuminated reindeer.

Giant fish and swans can also be seen on the lakes outside.

Andrew Parkinson, general manager of Bluewater, said: "The team have been working hard all year in preparation for Christmas and we are looking forward to the festive shopping season. Guests can expect a unique shopping experience where the Winter Wonderland contributes to a great day out for all the family."

Shoppers are expected to buy a bottle of perfume or aftershave every four seconds, more than 98,000 Christmas tree decorations and an estimated 1,960,000m of wrapping paper – which covers more than the distance from Land's End to John O' Groats – over the next two months.

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Christmas in Canterbury is always special, but this year it promises to be even better! The city centre is doing its best to beat the downturn blues with a gift-wrapped package of events and activities that will even see one lucky family jet off to Lapland for a day to meet the 'real' Father Christmas, courtesy of the Whitefriars shopping centre.

Christmas launch

This year's launch of Christmas in Canterbury will be a more traditional affair. The Cathedral choir and King's School jazz orchestra will be presenting a programme of carols and other seasonal music in St George's Street from 4pm to 6pm on 26 November, followed by the switch-on of the Christmas lights by Marlowe Theatre panto star Ade Edmondson.

Whitefriars will be bringing in a real reindeer family to add to the festive flavour: mum, dad, baby and sleigh will be located outside Bhs in Rose Square from 3pm-7pm. The real reindeer encounters will be repeated on Thursday 3, 10 and 17 December and on Saturday 12 December from 12pm to 4pm, when the reindeer will be joined by Father Christmas himself with gifts for children!

Christmas shopping

The popular German Christmas Market will once again take centre stage in Canterbury's Christmas line-up. Located in Whitefriars Square, 15 festive stalls will be selling a range of continental food specialities, Christmas decorations and gifts. Shop at your leisure whilst you savour the aroma of barbecued bratwurst and glühwein... mmmmmm! The market will open at 10am and runs from 19 November – 23 December. Festooned with thousands of coloured Christmas lights, the market really comes into its own as the evening draws in, helping to ease you into the magic of Christmas!

During the run-up to the big day, Whitefriars will be offering free parking to shoppers in its multi-storey car park from 6pm on late night Thursdays. Many stores will be trading late on other nights too. More information about Whitefriars Christmas activities can be found on its web site at www.whitefriars-canterbury.co.uk.

Christmas at the Cathedral

There's no better time to visit the city than December, as the Cathedral prepares itself for one of the most important events in the Christian calendar. The life-sized crib is well worth a visit, as are the carol services, accompanied by the Cathedral's 'heavenly' choir. These will be held on 23 December at 7.30pm and on Christmas Eve at 3pm (tickets only). There will also be a crib service at 11am on Christmas Eve and two services on Christmas Day itself (11am and 3.15pm). On 28 December the traditional Christingle service takes place at 3pm.

The 'real' Father Christmas – St Nicholas – will be paying his annual visit on Saturday, 5 December. And don't miss the popular Lord Mayor's Charity Carol Service in Rose Square on Christmas Eve. This event, which is usually presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury himself, attracts thousands and starts around 6pm. It's a great way to welcome in Christmas!

Win tickets to the panto!

With the new Marlowe Theatre not due to open until 2011, the popular Canterbury pantomime takes a new direction this year. A spectacular version of Peter Pan will be staged in the Marlowe Theatre Arena, a fully heated, state-of-the-art theatre tent at Kingsmead.

Starring Ade Edmondson as Captain Hook and, breaking with theatrical tradition, Steven Butler as the eponymous hero, local comedy legend Dave Lee as Tinkerbell and comedy favourite Ben Roddy as Smee, the panto promises to top even last year's record-breaking run.

Hurry, the croc is ticking and tickets are flying away fast! Book now on **01227 787787** or visit www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk. Complete the coupon below for a chance to win a family ticket to the panto!

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Simply complete the coupon above and send it to Sarah Munday, Marlowe Theatre, c/o Visitor Information Centre, 12-13 Sun Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HX by the closing date of 15 December 2009.

Canterbury Christmas Calendar at a glance

November 19	German Christmas Market opens
November 26	Christmas lights switch-on 4pm-6pm
	Real reindeer encounter 3pm-7pm
Nov 28/29	Boulogne Market
December 3	Real reindeer encounter 3pm-7pm
December 5	St Nicholas Parade
	Marlowe Theatre panto starts
December 10	Real reindeer encounter 3pm-7pm
December 12	Real reindeer encounter with
	Father Christmas (12pm-4pm)
December 17	Real reindeer encounter 3pm-7pm
December 23	Cathedral Carol Service (7.30pm)
	German Christmas Market closes
December 24	Cathedral Carol Service (3pm)
	Lord Mayor's Charity Carols (6pm)
December 25	Christmas Day Services at
	the Cathedral (11am and 3.15pm)
December 26	Sales start!
December 28	Christingle Service at the
	Cathedral (3pm)
January 17	Marlowe Theatre panto closes

Visit www.canterbury.co.uk for full event listing.

Win a trip to Lapland with Whitefriars!

Whitefriars will make Christmas really special for one lucky family this year, with its biggest ever competition prize: a £2,500, all expenses paid trip to Lapland to meet Father Christmas!

The winning family will enjoy a day trip to the twilight world inside the Arctic Circle...where a certain magic fills the air! And, best of all, meet Father Christmas and receive a special present!

The trip takes place on Sunday, 20 December and is for a family of four. To enter, simply visit the Whitefriars website at whitefriars-canterbury.co.uk, follow the link on the home page and complete the entry form. Full terms and conditions can be found on the website.

This special pull-out guide to Christmas in Canterbury has been sponsored by:

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Domestic violence conference highlights substances link

Abuse fuelled by drink and drugs

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE links between substance misuse and domestic violence have been at the centre of talks at a multi-agency conference in Maidstone this week.

It follows the release of up-to-date figures showing incidents of domestic abuse in Kent have risen by 568 to 20,710 between 2008 and 2009.

About 150 representatives from charities, aid organisations and domestic violence forums across the county took part in discussions, which were hosted by the Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group.

Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, who represents Maidstone and the Weald, attended the meeting and said she hoped it would raise awareness of the problems blighting many people's lives.

"Domestic abuse can affect men, women and children, but it often goes unaddressed," she said.

Chief Supt Lee Catling, chair of the strategy group, stressed that substance misuse will never be accepted as an excuse for subjecting a partner to violence.

He said: "The impact of domestic abuse and substance misuse on family life is devastating, particularly for children. It's a mistake to think children are unaware of what is happening in their homes.

"Children can often give detailed accounts of what has happened and the effects can last for the rest of their lives."

Leigh (not her real name), from south Kent, was just a child herself when she suffered domestic abuse from her boyfriend.

The 16-year-old was suffering from depression and self-harming and was referred to a personal adviser from help group Connexions.

She admitted to being abused by her boyfriend and recalled one incident when he punched her in the face when she questioned his smoking.

She took him back, but after he hit her again made the final break. Since then she had retaken her maths and English GCSEs and is studying childcare at college.

Links to substance misuse and domestic violence were highlighted at the Maidstone conference and figures showing the true extent of problems were revealed.

Recent studies found that almost half of domestic violence offenders had been under the influence of alcohol.

Children's charity Childline also reported that almost 50 per cent of calls made by youngsters about a significant other's alcohol problems were made primarily to talk about physical abuse they had experienced.

HIDDEN HURT: Domestic violence is on the rise (picture posed by model)

But Karen Bailey, deputy director of the Stella Project, an agency addressing drug or alcohol-related domestic violence, said it was not just abusive partners who drink heavily.

"Statistics show that many women use drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism for abuse and show high rates of depression or post-traumatic stress disorder," she said.

"Often abuse, violence and controlling behaviour exist when the perpetrator is sober. The issue is complicated and requires a multi-agency response."

Youth council awaits verdict

MORE than 100 budding politicians are just days away from learning if they have been chosen to represent their peers on the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC).

Thousands of children visited polling stations at schools and youth centres to have their say throughout a nine-day voting period that opened late last week.

The results of this year's elections – in which 106 candidates are battling for 48 seats in 12 districts – will be announced next weekend.

KCC cabinet member Cllr Mike Hill said the successful candidates would help shape services for youngsters.

"KYCC plays a very important part in raising awareness of the issues that affect young people," he said. "The number of candidates keen to be elected shows how enthusiastic Kent's young are about having a voice."

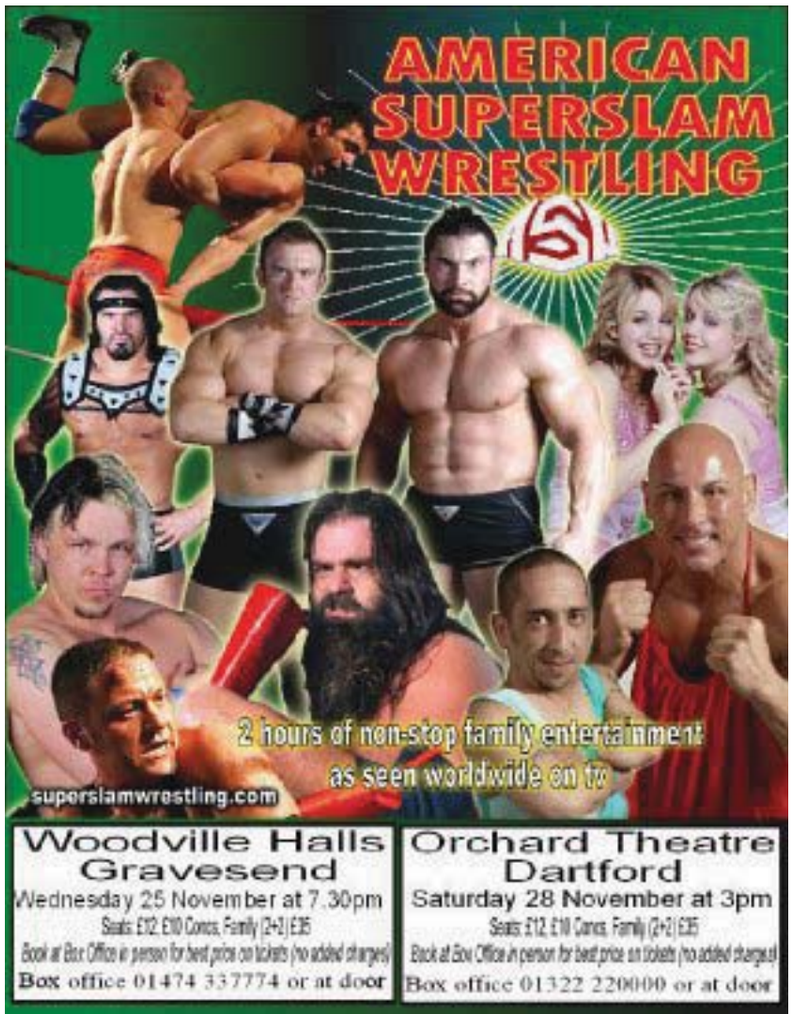
This year marks the 10th anniversary of youth elections in Kent, the first three of which were to find young people to sit on the UK Youth Parliament.

While some of today's candidates still represent the county in the House of Commons, they now play a greater role closer to home by working with cabinet members and KCC officers on issues including education, transport and the environment.

Youth county councillors also attend events outside Kent, such as conferences in Westminster, meetings at the European Parliament and with young people from across the continent.

There are four seats available in each of the 12 district or borough councils within the KCC area, and candidates may choose to represent the place where they live or where they go to school, college or work.

The results will be announced at County Hall in Maidstone from 10.30am on Saturday, November 28.



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Gift to rising stars of African football

POVERTY-stricken Tanzania could be where the next African football star is discovered, thanks to the generosity of clubs in Kent, ***writes Steve Knight***.

From the professionals at Gillingham FC down to the grass roots level of Sunday league, teams from across the county donated boots, kit and equipment to help youngsters playing thousands of miles away. The charity drive was organised by the Kent County FA's chief executive Keith Masters, who is also the European president of the Tanzanian Youth Sports Charity Organisation (Tysco).

Mr Masters said he hoped such generosity would one day help Tanzania emerge as one of Africa's leading football nations and produce players of the calibre of Ivory Coast and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba.

He said: "You'd be amazed at the skill that some of these players can produce without boots and on some of the worst pitches you've ever seen in your life. It's just a bit of sand with homemade goal posts but they're happy and content.

Didier Drogba

"The Premier League is massive out there and almost every kid you speak to supports one of the big clubs.

"They're so enthusiastic for the sport and extremely grateful for everything you give them, so it's a joy to be able to help them in this way. You've only got to look at countries that have received monetary help in the past, like Ghana, to see that there are some hugely talented players out there, and I'm certain that before the end of this century an African team will win the World Cup."

Mr Masters was invited to join Tysco back in 2007 at a time when Tanzania was ranked 157th in the FIFA rankings.

Despite never having qualified for the World Cup finals, the national team now appears to be on the up and is placed just outside the top 100. If further proof were needed, last June its players saw off recent qualifiers New Zealand 2-1 in a friendly.

Mr Masters said: "There must be Wayne Rooneys and Theo Walcotts somewhere in Tanzania – all we have to do is find them. To do that we need to develop and hopefully raise the profile of the game there.

"They didn't want money from us, just boots and equipment, so I asked clubs in Kent to help out and they were tremendous. We had enough to fill three containers."

As part of his role with the charity, Mr Masters is also calling on people to donate any unwanted textbooks so they can be re-used in one of Tanzania's schools.

He said: "I just want to do what I can to assist these people because they have absolutely nothing. They're so grateful for everything you give them, and it's great to see their eyes light up just for handing over three footballs."

To donate football or school equipment to Mr Masters' cause, contact him through the KCFA on 01622 791850.

GAME ON: Kent County FA chief executive Keith Masters with players in Tanzania

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More help on offer to fight web bullies

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN a schoolgirl found herself contemplating suicide after yet another abusive message she knew she had to tell someone.

The 13 year old, who had recently moved to the area with her family, had been the target of a gang of girls who repeatedly subjected her to cruel taunts while at school.

But when she started to receive abusive emails and texts from the bullies at home she turned to her parents for help.

"I never felt safe," she said. "Even when I was at home they would put messages on my Bebo page or text horrible things. It got to the point that when I went to sleep I hoped I would never wake up. This was when I spoke to my parents and they helped sort it out."

For many her story may be familiar, as national figures released this week show 61 per cent of 11 to 18-year-olds have witnessed some form of cyber-bullying.

And research by the Department for Children, Schools and Families found that more than a third children aged between 12 and 15 have faced cyber-bullying.

Social networking sites, such as Bebo and Facebook, and computer messaging are now a part of everyday life, but to try to beat the-bullying last week was Anti-Bullying Week and the Government ran a campaign, Stay Safe in Cyberspace.

Emma-Jane Cross, chief executive of national charity Beatbullying, said: "We know the consequences of cyber-bullying are just as traumatic as face-to-face bullying.

"In the past year alone we've witnessed tragic suicides resulting from relentless online hate campaigns.

"Suicide is an extreme manifestation, but research shows us that increased isolation, poor educational attainment and self-destructive behaviour all follow cyber-bullying. We must all act together and fast."

Kent County Council's online Safe at School survey aims to find out about children's experience and perception of bullying.

Leyland Ridings, KCC deputy cabinet member for children, families and education, said anyone who is a victim of bullying should tell someone.

"Anti-bullying is a priority for all of us," he said. "This survey is one way we can get a better understanding of bullying.

"It is anonymous and that will help those who are afraid to speak out."

Last week KCC's e-safety officer Rebecca Avery visited schools across Kent to make children and parents aware of the harmful effects of bullying over the internet.

She said: "Online bullying can be very traumatising for children. It's just as harmful as bullying in person.

"Because it's online, children don't often think about the consequences of the words they are using.

"Parents may not even be aware that their child is a cyber-bully or being bullied."

• Visit www.kenttrustweb.org.uk to fill in the Safe at School survey. If you are a victim of bullying, see www.beatbullying.org or www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk for advice.

Picture: BEATBULLYING LTD

HI-TECH: Bullying has moved on from being purely a physical form of abuse

Advice to beat doorstep conmen

A 72-year-old woman was conned out of cash after a heartless scammer tricked her into thinking he had fixed her roof.

It comes as the Office of Fair Trading has launched a major campaign to stem the rising flood of similar attacks on vulnerable people in Kent and the rest of the UK.

Callous conmen generally target the elderly and use a blend of smooth and threatening talk to make pensioners hand over large sums of cash, often before any work is done at all.

In Swanley, the police said the woman handed over money to the man who led her to believe he had carried out repair work on roof tiles at her home. The man cold-called and convinced the lady her roof needed mending. She handed over money and the man left.

He had told her he was with a company that had scaffolding up at another nearby home. Worried, she checked with workers there when the conman failed to come back, and they told her he was nothing to do with them.

Det Sgt Adam Ball said: "Be wary of anyone offering to carry out home maintenance or gardening work. Don't hand over any money until you've checked with someone – a neighbour or family member or if in doubt ring the police. The genuine caller won't mind waiting."

After the incident, the OFT revealed that three million Brits are conned like this every year. In the midst of a recession where money is tight more conmen are taking to the streets, taking an average £600 from each victim, with those over 55 losing almost £1,100.

Now it has launched its Your Doorstep, Your Decision campaign which found despite the massive losses, 49 per cent of homeowners are uncomfortable with cold-callers and feel intimidated. Out of those who did agree to work being done, 41 per cent had to pay out more to repair the damage done by the con artists.

The OFT said doorstep canvassing is not illegal and there are many legitimate businesses selling to people in the home. But rogue doorstep trading is an ongoing problem.

Already this year, Consumer Direct, the advice service managed by the OFT, has received almost 4,000 complaints about cold callers offering to do repairs, a rise of 18 per cent on the same period last year. The top three complaints concerned roofing (1,076), tarmacing and paving (954) and insulation (335).

Michele Shambrook from the Office of Fair Trading said: "We want people to recognise the warning signs, and to feel confident enough to take appropriate precautions and say no."

People should be wary of special offers or warnings, don't hand over a cash deposit, don't agree to a trader starting work straight away, take time to consult with someone you trust and if in doubt, contact Consumer Direct at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk or your local authority Trading Standards Service.

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Body bag campaign targets teen drivers

THIS shocking image of a girl in a body bag is to be displayed on the back of buses across Kent, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The poster is part of Kent Fire and Rescue Service's hard-hitting 'Jack and Jill' campaign, warning young people about the risks of dangerous driving.

And firefighters from around the county have described horrific moments in their careers when they have had to deal with teenagers dying in crashes. The aim is to hammer home the message and remind youngsters they are not invincible.

Larkfield crew manager Peter Colwill recalled the time he attended a fatal crash involving four young people near Maidstone three years ago.

"I'll never forget that shout," he said. "The car was on the roof and one of the youngsters was already dead. We had to cut him out of the car so we could get to another casualty.

"I was teaching my own son to drive at the time and for weeks afterwards I would wake up imagining his face in that crashed car."

Another harrowing account was given by Charing firefighter Nigel Collins.

"We went to a shout in 2007 when a car had hit a lorry," he said. "Two teenagers had picked up their girlfriends from school and were out for some fun, but one of the boys and one of the girls were killed.

"The other one was last year and involved two lads in a car one of them had bought a few days before. We found it wrapped around a tree. I was the last person to be with that lad as his life ebbed away."

Sittingbourne firefighter Jon Clark had to help a young woman who was seriously injured in a car crash. He said: "She was in a bad way because she'd not been wearing a seatbelt. They got her to hospital but she died a few hours later."

For mum-of-two Karen Rawlings, a retained firefighter from Teynham, a crash involving a mother and baby was particularly difficult.

"The baby had been thrown from the vehicle but amazingly received just a bruise," she said. "The woman went into cardiac arrest and died later in hospital."

The campaign poster shows the bloodied face of a girl and in the background the survivor driver. Head of community safety Stuart Skilton said it was deliberately hard hitting to shock drivers into taking more care.

"We attend about 1,200 road traffic collisions each year," he said. "Young drivers are disproportionately involved and it's our firefighters who have to cut them and their passengers free. Our crews see much more than just a statistic."

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Energy drinks fuelling KCA's caffeine fears

ADDICTION experts say they have identified strong links between teenage health problems and caffeine-based fizzy drinks.

Youngsters in the county have spoken about the effects excessive use of energy drinks and caffeine pills have had on their health to case workers from KCA, formerly Kent Council on Addiction.

Zara Rahemtulla, an early intervention worker based in Canterbury, said: "We have developed a briefing to provide accurate information and clarify the risks," she said.

The advice follows concerns raised by a case worker who noticed an increase in young people suffering through excessive caffeine use.

One 16-year-old, from Sittingbourne, admitted drinking alcohol mixed with energy drinks.

He said: "One night I collapsed in the street. My heart was beating so fast and I was taken to hospital. I thought I was going to die."

In another case, an 18-year-old from Sheppey overdosed on energy pills.

He said: "They gave me diarrhoea and palpitations and made me really shaky."

The average 237ml energy drink contains 80mg of caffeine and the amount in tablets varies from 25mg to 200mg. An average cup of tea contains 100mg.

Neil Hunt, KCA's director of research, said: "Caffeine doses of 200mg or higher can cause unpleasant symptoms such as nausea, headaches, abnormal heartbeat, anxiety, panic, overheating and dehydration."

Mr Hunt said people can also experience a "come down" leaving them tired and irritable.

UK sales of stimulant drinks were worth about £522 million last year.

Superbug ex-health chief wins right to full appeal

NEW APPEAL: Rose Gibb was in charge of the NHS trust during the C.diff hospital outbreaks

THE former health chief at the centre of a deadly superbug scandal has won the right to launch a full appeal against a High Court decision to block her £250,000 pay-off.

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

Rose Gibb was in charge of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust when two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile led to the deaths of at least 90 patients.

Ms Gibb attempted to sue her former employer for breach of contract after it refused to pay her the full £250,000 she had been offered to resign, but in April High Court judge Mr Justice Treacy dismissed her claims and refused permission to appeal the ruling.

After further legal advice, Ms Gibb's union, Managers in Partnership (MiP), announced on Friday, November 13, that she had won the right to a full appeal against the decision – on all grounds.

A High Court judge had ruled in September that the court would only consider whether the NHS trust had the power to agree the £250,000 payment.

But the latest decision means the former health boss can appeal on other matters, such as the assurances she was given by her former employer. She will declare two other points at an appeal hearing in February, next year.

MiP chief executive Jon Restell said: "We're satisfied with this latest twist, but it will be the last thing the families of those who died want to hear.

"This case should never have come to court. Rose Gibb wanted to stay and face the music. She should have been held to account at a disciplinary hearing and either cleared or sacked without a penny. The trust decided not to go down this road."

A trust official said: "We are disappointed with this decision and will not be alone in that view. Our new management team accepted the failings of the trust's previous leadership and put things right. The trust and the relatives should be allowed to move on."

The two-day appeal is expected to take place in March, next year.

Ms Gibb resigned just days before a damning Healthcare Commission report in October 2007, which revealed poor hygiene, infection control methods and ineffective leadership led to 1,176 patients developing the bug between 2004 and 2006 at Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Pembury hospitals.

The trust has since improved its hygiene and in the last seven months has had the lowest rates of C.diff in the region.

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Talks honour the life of General James Wolfe – Britain's forgotten hero

WHEN General James Wolfe died after defeating the French in the victory over Quebec in 1759, it was noted down in history as a defining moment for the British Empire.

Records show that even Admiral Lord Nelson, who is celebrated nationwide as a war hero for his victory in the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar, aspired to be like the Kent-born general.

But scholars have remained puzzled as to why General Wolfe, who was born in Westerham, near Sevenoaks, in 1727, has remained virtually unknown despite being labelled by some as a "hero of the British Empire".

To mark the 250th anniversary of his victory over the French in Quebec – which influenced the later creation of Canada – curators at the National Maritime Museum have held a series of talks this week about the "forgotten hero".

It follows celebrations in Westerham in September where the community joined together for a Wolfe Weekend with reconstructions of the Battle of Quebec in which the general lost his life.

The siege was part of the Seven Years War between 1756-1763, which was the first global conflict, involving Prussia and Austria and then England, France and Spain.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Wolfe was stationed in Canterbury in 1756, where his regiment had been posted to protect Kent against the French.

A year later he took part in the British assault on Rochefort, in France, and a year after that in the siege on Louisbourg, now Nova Scotia in Canada.

Heroics

In 1759, he was selected to lead the British assault on Quebec City and on September 13, after three months laying siege on the French, he was victorious. But at the moment of his victory he was shot and killed.

John McAleer, curator at the National Maritime Museum, said many people are unaware of the Seven Years War or the heroics of Wolfe.

"A survey was carried out a little while ago where Nelson was put in the top ten of the world's most famous Brits," he said.

"Wolfe didn't even make the top 100, even though when he died his mother was offered a State funeral which is usually reserved for kings or queens.

KENT HOME: James Wolfe lived in Quebec House in Westerham where he was born in 1727

"There was a great outpouring of grief when he died and many artists depicted him in their work – artist Benjamin West pictured Wolfe's dying moments in the 18th century painting the Death of General Wolfe.

"But still not everyone knows who he is.

"I think a lot of this is down to historical distance and the fact that Nelson came after him.

"Wolfe seemed to disappear into the mists of time, even though he was a hero in Britain."

Mr McAleer held his talk on Thursday at the foot of Wolfe's statue which sits at Observatory Hill in Greenwich where he lived after moving from Westerham.

Richard Johns, the National Maritime Museum's curator of prints and drawings, also gave a lecture entitled General Wolfe and the art of a dying hero.

Wolfe's childhood home in Kent – named Quebec House – is now owned by National Heritage and is open to the public. For more information or to visit call 01732 866368 or see quebechouse@nationaltrust.org.uk.

For the third year Boulogne shopkeepers will be in Canterbury with their exciting Christmas market. There will entertainment alongside stalls selling traditional French specialities of the region including beers, cheeses and bread as well as typical French Christmas decorations.

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th November '09

Visitors will also have the chance to win prizes with one of our nearest French neighbours, Boulogne-sur-Mer. Prizes include tickets for the Nausicaa Sea Life Centre, a weekend break and restaurant meals. Just leave the form below in the box on the Boulogne-sur-Mer tourist office stand.

We look forward to welcoming you to Canterbury's Christmas Market. Bienvenue!

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KIG bosses accused of faking document to gain site approval

By **ANNA WHITE**

KENT International Gateway (KIG) bosses doctored official evidence from light engineers in a bid to gain approval for the controversial site to operate at night, an inquiry has heard.

The accusation was made by Joint Parishes Group (JPG) at the ongoing public inquiry into the controversial proposal for a giant road-to-rail interchange to be built at Bearsted, near Maidstone.

JPG's evidence against the plans revealed that KIG had misquoted the Institution of Light Engineers (ILE) guidance and appeared to have replaced it with its own definition.

Richard Jacques, chairman of the JPG, said: "The inquiry was stunned into silence by this revelation. The fact the applicants have felt the need to misrepresent such a crucial document highlights the weakness of the case for KIG."

Concerns

The original statement from the ILE recommends strict night-time regulations as the site is near to an "intrinsically dark area" (an E1 zone), but although KIG's version acknowledges it is on an dark area boundary it claims the land is within a "low district brightness area" (an E2 zone) – making it more acceptable for 24-hour operation.

Although KIG's representatives have been aware of JPG's concerns since it submitted its evidence on October 6, when the group challenged the applicant at the inquiry on October 12 they had no explanation for the deleted passage.

KIG's lighting expert, Nigel Pollard, is due to give evidence at the inquiry on November 27.

Mr Jacques added: "The way that the KIG development is defines as a brightness zone could have a real impact on the inquiry.

"If the applicants are unable to demonstrate the scheme is economically viable then the planning inspector would be obliged to throw it out.

"Clearly an SRFI (Shift Rail to Freight Interchange) operating for 24 hours will have a very different economic viability than an SRFI that has to turn the lights out and shut down at 11pm.

"The real ILE guidance is very clear; light shielding will not do, the lights must go out at 11pm. At the very least, the applicants should be forced to re-examine it's assessment of the economics behind KIG and present its case using genuine guidance."

The proposal also suffered another blow last week when actress Jenny Agutter publically joined the fight against the proposal, saying it would do "immeasurable damage" to the area.

The star, who starred as Roberta in Edith Nesbitt's 1970 film The Railway Children, made her objections known in a letter to the planning inspector Andrew Phillipson.

Agutter, 56, who lived in Bearsted as a teenager, said: "I was lucky enough to enjoy this special village.

"I am distressed to find that this village life, which has up to now retained much of its rural charm, is threatened with the huge KIG development."

The inquiry, which is being held at Kent House, in Maidstone town centre, is expected to last up until Christmas.

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Clean up this Christmas WIN! a hamper from Plenty

CHRISTMAS is a magical time, whether your kids are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa or a wider circle of family and friends are arriving for the annual gathering. The trouble is it's often not much of a holiday for you.

In fact, it's three times the mess, with your carpet being patterned with sticky drinks spills, chocolatey fingerprints appearing on every surface, and a kitchen that looks like a disaster zone after you've finally prepared Christmas dinner for 12.

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a) Salt
b) White wine
c) Orange Juice

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Bite into the season's finest

What better way to keep warm than with a feast of wholesome Kentish fare? RACHEL MCATHY finds out what the county has to offer at this chilly time

THE days are shorter, there is a chill in the air and shops are already adorned with floor to ceiling Christmas decor. Winter has arrived.

But as families across the county seek shelter from the cold in their cosy homes, farmers are out in the fields, growing us some much-needed winter warmers.

As the temperature undoubtedly drops in the coming weeks, farmers could be facing some harsh conditions.

Ashford farmer Doug Wanstall, from Foodforkent.co.uk, explained why a white, or even just a wet Christmas, is not going to be on his wish list.

"We have finished planting most of our crops for winter now, but there are still some which are being produced, such as winter cauliflower, cabbage, brussel sprouts, leeks and parsnips.

"The success of these foods, growing at this time of the year, is very dependent on the weather.

"If there is heavy rain, as a farmer, it is very difficult out on the fields to get the crops in. If there is frost, even if you can get onto the fields, you cannot cut things because it can kill the plants. That happened last year, so winter is a very difficult time of year."

But while some foods crave the heat of summer, others actually thrive in colder conditions.

"Brussel sprouts which have had a frost actually have a much more intense flavour and the frost also works to preserve the vegetable," Mr Wanstall said.

And the love-it-or-hate-it vegetable is not the only one which enjoys a chill in the air, with even some fruit able to stick out the brisk breeze.

"We are still getting quite a few apples coming in, particularly Bramley apples, so it is the perfect time to be making pies," said Doug. "Also Conference pears and Braebourne apples are beautiful this time of year. They are lovely and crisp and very sweet."

Orders to Foodforkent.co.uk – the one-stop online shop where, as far as possible, everything is either grown or supplied by local, Kentish suppliers – at this time of year continue to flood in, full of requests for winter warmer delights, as local people stock up on a range of quality foods.

"At this time of year people buy a lot more root vegetables, such as parsnips, potatoes, leeks and swede," Mr Wanstall explains.

"Our Jerusalem artichokes are also very popular in the winter, which is a root vegetable with a difference, offering a distinct nutty flavour.

"There are a lot more interesting winter vegetables coming in now, such as Cavalero Nero, an odd-looking relation of cabbage.

"This is beautiful sautéed with oil and bacon like people would do with cabbage, it is very tasty.

"There are always some interesting things out there, right up until Christmas."

According to Mr Wanstall, Kent is the perfect spot for many vegetables to grow at this time of year. Broccoli, for example, grows for longer in the county than anywhere else in England, continuing right into February.

And even farms not harvesting in the winter are busy preparing for spring, with many already planting crops for next year.

So while winter can be a tricky time for producers, it can also be a great time to get Kent food at its best.

To stock up on local produce, from fruit and vegetables to meat, dairy and fish, visit the website www.foodforkent.co.uk.

Cock-a-leekie soup recipe to warm you this winter

Preparation: 10 minutes. Cooking: 60 minutes. Serves: 4

Ingredients

1 medium local chicken leg quarter, skinned
1 chicken stock cube
50g pearl barley
1 bay leaf
2 onions, sliced
2 leeks, sliced
1 carrot, chopped
2tbsp chopped fresh parsley
salt and black pepper

Method

Put the chicken into a large saucepan and add 1.2 litres of cold water and the stock cube. Add the pearl barley and the bay leaf, and bring up to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer gently, partially covered, for 30 minutes.

Add the onions, leek and carrots and continue to cook for about 20 minutes until the vegetables are tender and the barley is cooked.

Lift the chicken portion from the saucepan, cool slightly, then remove all the meat from the bones. Chop the meat and return to the saucepan with the parsley.

Remove the bay leaf, reheat the soup and season to taste. Ladle into warmed bowls.

Festive foods to be tasted

LOCAL food will be on offer at the Leeds Castle Festive Fair.

The event runs all weekend, with a selection of seasonal food available to try and buy from local producers.

There will also be a chance to get some Christmas shopping under way, with around 150 stalls overflowing with stocking fillers and presents as well as plenty of tasty treats.

The fair runs from 10am to 4pm and tickets cost £16.50 for adults, £12.50 for senior citizens and £9.50 for children.

See www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400.

Explore the county's best

VOTED the Best Farmers Market in Kent, for the past three years, Cliftonville Farmers' Market returns next weekend.

Stalls will sell a huge selection of Kentish fare, from meat, savoury pies, cheese and bread to fruit juices, cakes, fudge, vegetables and wild game.

For those with a sweet tooth there will also be locally made honey, preserves, biscuits, chutneys and fruit pies.

There will also be treats for man's best friend, with home-made dog biscuits on offer.

The market will be held on The Oval Lawns, Eastern Esplanade in Cliftonville on Sunday 29, from 10am to 1pm.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Weathering the financial storm

RETAIL sales are up, according to figures released on Thursday, and if we all spend more that means more sales, more production more jobs and, ultimately, an end to this bleak time. We'll have to wait and see.

With so many false dawns already, people have become immune to hype about the downturn being over. That unemployment has more than doubled year-on-year in some parts of the county shows how deeply this long recession has bitten.

However, there's no doubt some are doing all right, thank you very much. Sensible spending and the lowest mortgage rates in living memory are helping many weather the storm. And if the queues at Bluewater are anything to go by, there's money to be made with the right product.

Whether it be a pair of Jimmy Choos, an iPhone or the latest computer, if you produce the right product, people will find the money.

Stalled in the rain

WITH bad weather battering the county, we were once again subjected to Operation Stack as trucks queued to cross the Channel.

Kent is the gateway to Britain and our ports are essential to trade. We need a proper truck stop for all those HGVs that clog the M20 during Channel crossing delays.

If the EU can finance new motorways in eastern Europe, then surely it can help find the cash for us to continue using a motorway we've already built.

OPINION: The student loans fiasco

Relative poverty is part of the university package admits Dan Stanley, but even students have limits

AN INQUIRY has finally been launched into the mistakes that caused up to 85,000 people to be without student loans for the start of their university careers.

Ordered by universities minister David Lammy, the inquiry is to be a "frank assessment of what went wrong".

A succession of errors coupled with staffing frailties has left many students under-financed and unaware how to rectify it.

Students across the country have reported lost documents, engaged telephone helplines and repeated requests to submit supporting evidence already given.

All of which has delayed payments to significant numbers of students, in some cases affecting their rent.

Student Loans Company (SLC) chief Ralph Seymour-Jackson has admitted phone lines were understaffed and this magnified students' distress as they had no way of finding out what went wrong or if they were even to receive funding.

Mr Seymour-Jackson said: "We are very sorry for the genuine worry, confusion and distress this has caused" – a sentiment students countrywide will appreciate, I'm sure.

Granted, the SLC has prioritised initial payments so that non-means-tested funding has been paid, allowing students to relax in the knowledge their rent and tuition can hopefully be covered. With the means-tested parts still waiting to be financed in an economy where jobs are hard to come by, what are these unfortunate students supposed to eat?

How are they supposed to pay their bills? Many rely heavily on this funding to navigate their way through a financially restrictive period. Students from poorer backgrounds do not have the parental support to be given the lifeline of an internet food shop by mum or dad. These students, struggling against the class structure as it is, need no persuading that student life is financially tough.

To add to the misery, the typical 'phishing' scams that surround these sorts of incidents have begun, with emails asking for security details to guarantee loan payments on time.

Students will take no solace in the recently leaked expenses figures for the SLC, showing an MP-like £331,000 being spent on first-class travel in 2008/09. This being the largest expense in a total clearing more than £1 million, the rest being splurged on consultants and team-building exercises, making a mockery of the plight of thousands trying to pay their accommodation and tuition fees.

The student finance debacle occurred in the wake of record applications to UCAS for the academic year 2009/10, so one can allow the SLC a few teething problems. Yet the number of students still awaiting funding is more than a minor kerfuffle.

The blame cannot be placed wholly at the feet of the dreaded credit crunch and begs the question: why was this influx not prepared for?

With record applications flying in as early as April, why are some students still waiting for their payments seven weeks after the start of their courses?

The National Union of Students has called for resignations and last week Lord Mandelson said the loans service had fallen "well short of the expectations of students and their families".

Apparently there have been floods of complaints to trading standards about the SLC.

Having dealt with the SLC myself, I can report that I have never experienced a problem with them and have been lucky enough to receive all due credits as and when their statements dictate, as have all my university acquaintances.

However, I am not filled with confidence for next year.

With 30,000 students said to have missed out on the limited number of university places for this academic year, it could be a rollercoaster next September as the surge in applicants looks unlikely to subside.

Suffice to say, I'd advise any prospective students reading this get their applications in early. Very early.

• ***Dan Stanley, a 25-year-old mature student from Gillingham, is studying journalism at the University of Sussex.***

Put Johnson to flight

I was appalled to read London Mayor Boris Johnson is persisting with his Thames Estuary airport idea.

It was only two years ago that an airport plan for Hoo was quashed. Thousands fought hard against this and dedicated three years of their lives to stop it happening.

It would have taken away land that has long been a haven for wildlife, would have been bad for the environment, and could have caused health problems for people living in the area.

What gives Mr Johnson the right to play with people's health and lives and start this up again? This isn't even his area – so keep out. Whatever happened to doing what's best for the people?

It seems some politicians only think of themselves. Does he not remember the ferocity with which people fought against Hoo? They just do not learn.

Mrs C Russell, Ramsgate

We're working together

As our country continues to suffer from the longest recession since records began, we are doing what we can in a targeted fashion to help residents and businesses affected by the economic downturn in Medway.

This month we officially opened our new flagship Employ Medway Advice Centre, in Chatham High Street, which provides free information and advice to those who have found themselves recently unemployed or facing redundancy.

To help young people, we are giving them the opportunity to gain valuable experience through our graduate work experience and apprenticeship schemes.

Local businesses can benefit from start-up grants and our recently expanded Partners for Growth loan scheme, which now includes the retail sector, as well as having access to professional advice.

For those facing financial problems, the council runs a debt service in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau, as well as working with residents who are struggling to pay their council tax bills.

These schemes are making a difference. They have helped people such as Peter Hegarty, a former Royal Engineer, who was made redundant from his job, but thanks to a Partners for Growth loan has set up his own property maintenance scheme. Mr Hegarty is one of a number of people who have been given assistance and our schemes can also help you find new opportunities in these difficult times.

Cllr Jane Chitty, portfolio holder for development and economic growth, Medway Council

Nuclear is not the answer

So Dungeness has been left off the proposed new round of nuclear stations on environmental grounds. And so it should.

It isn't required. Nor are the proposed so-called 'clean coal' stations, the technology for which is unlikely to be perfected before 2025.

The Government has deliberately dithered over fully embracing renewables to aid the proposed expansion of centralised nuclear stations. Appeals from locals on Romney Marsh are unlikely to succeed and Mr Brown's comments on Dungeness C is mere politicking ahead of the general election.

Any new station would still produce toxic waste which would have to be stored for decades. The roads on the Marsh are hardly ideal for the lorries that would be needed for any new build, even after the Government railroads through new planning laws.

The UK could have been largely self-sufficient in an albeit early form of solar panelling. Instead, we rampaged across the Middle East and Africa, carving it up and setting up dictators to do our bidding and grabbing oil. While it may well affect jobs locally, the fact is nuclear power is not the answer to climate change. The station would not be ready before 2019 at the earliest, but the changes to energy sources are needed now. The only way the gap can be filled is with a big expansion of renewables now. This could be achieved by factories on the Marsh to make solar panels and other components. I suggest on the site of Lydd Airport, which should also be rejected on environmental grounds. More people are holidaying in the UK and travelling via surface transport anyway. We should be taking advantage of this.

It may also be possible to establish a marine research centre to take advantage of the proposed Channel reserve and linking with our universities and colleges.

There are likely to be many other ideas that could be instituted locally rather than another nuclear station and I suggest people put their energies into the alternatives between now and 2018, when Dungeness B closes.

Ray Duff, FoE and Kent Against a Radioactice Environment

Drain on our resources

Your report last week highlighted the shortfall in funding from Westminster forcing Kent County Council to make cuts.

When will the public make the Government put a stop to the £45 million of British taxpayers' money that is given to the EU in Brussels every single day. It's our money and should be used in the UK to provide services for us, and not for supporting other countries in the EU and beyond.

How much longer will the British people put up with this ruinous situation of our membership of the European Union?

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Right Royal opportunity

So the Theatre Royal in Chatham and adjoining bank chambers have failed to find a buyer.

If Medway Council was to buy these Grade II-listed buildings, using money for the regeneration of Chatham, they could be saved and put to good use.

The Theatre Royal could be turned into a museum which would be a tourist attraction and save what is left of the building.

The bank could be used as a pensioners' centre during the day and a youth centre in the evenings.

It could also be used as a tourist information centre and house public toilets for that end of town. It would be a great shame to let these old buildings fall into even more disrepair and then be pulled down and more apartments built. We need to keep some of our old buildings for posterity.

Peter Nassan, Chatham

Letters continued on page 34

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

BAMGBOYE
George and Ladi celebrate the birth of their son Michael Bamgboye on 11th November 2009. Baby brother for George Ayomide Bamgboye.

BARNES
Elizabeth and Jamie Barnes celebrate the birth of their daughter Grace May Armstrong Barnes on 27th October 2009. A much loved sister for Isabelle Barnes.

BARTLETT
Nathan and Claudine Bartlett would like to welcome Ethan David into the world - their first son and first grandchild to Maggie, David, Sue and Roger.

BENNETT
Lacey Jo Erin Bennett arrived on 28th October 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford - her proud parents are Mark Bennett and Natalie Barrett.

COOKSLEY
Carly, Tommy and Holly-Mai are proud to announce the birth of George Patrick Cooksley born on 5th November 2009 weighing 6lb 10oz. A little brother for Holly-Mai xx.

DEBLING
Finley Reagan Colin born on 15th October 2009, weighing 6lb 2oz. Son to Kerry Davey and Darren Debling in Margate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

DEEGAN
Marie and Frazer are delighted to announce the arrival of John Frazer who was born on 5th November 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital. John is a baby brother for Chloe, Nadina and Bailey.

EASTERLING
Kaycee John born on 9th November 2009, weighing 6lb 7oz. Son to Kerri and Tommy in Larkfield.

EDWARDS
Megan born on 6th November 2009, weighing 7lbs 1oz. Daughter to Natalie and Gary in Maidstone.

FARRELL
Tania Ashman and Simon Farrell are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Abbie Louise Farrell who was born on 6th November 2009. Proud Grandparents are Sandra and Kevin, Margaret and Jonathan, Mike and Liz.

GRAHAM
Colin and Elizabeth are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful baby son Charles on the 1st October 2009 at 19.23pm. A baby brother for Antonia.

HAMYLTON
Siobhan is delighted to announce the birth of Douglas James Raef born on 13th October 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford. Douglas is warmly welcomed by his big sister Harriet.

LACY-ROWE
Stephen and Emma are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Lilly-May on
4th November 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital.

LOFT
Gareth and Kate Loft are proud to annouce the birth of their beautiful daughter Hollie Emma born on 28th October 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital. Our most beautiful and precious daughter xx.

LOPEZ
Martin and Tanya are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Gabriella Christel on 5th November 2009, a baby sister to Lucas.

MASTERS
Julia and Nick Masters celebrate the birth of their daughter Ava Jocelyn weighing 6lb 14oz on the 6th November 2009.

NEALE
Danny and Marisa of Nonington are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Tomas Albert, on 5th November 2009 at 21.55pm weighing 9lb 2oz.

PROBERT / MOORE
Henry Robert born on 7th November 2009 weighing 5lbs 14oz. Son to Carley and Craig of Maidstone.

ROLLS
Tony and Jo are delighted to announce the birth of their son Ben Antony on 5th October 2009 weighing 7lb 8oz, a brother for Amy.

SEARS
Daniel and Abbie of Faversham are over the moon at the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Toby Carl, born on 8th November 2009. A new great grandson, grandson and nephew who will be dearly loved and cherished.

VIDAL VON RÖNN
Alexandra and Jose are delighted to announce the birth of their son Leo Gabriel, born on 5th November 2009 at QEQM Hospital. Brother for Tara Olivia. Our most beautiful and precious son.

WARD
Paul and Laura of Folkestone celebrate the birth of their son Connor Robert James Ward on 10th November 2009.

DEATHS

BENNETT
Samuel Douglas Bennett aged 90 years, of Canterbury, passed away peacefully on 16th November 2009. A much loved husband, dad, grand-dad and great grand-dad who will be deeply missed. The funeral will be held at Canterbury Cemetery on Tuesday 24th November at mid-day. If desired, flowers or donations to The Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury c/o C W Lyons 01227 463508.

BURKE
Peter passed away after a long illness on 13th November 2009. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Sheila, family and friends.

KTORIS
Jim of The Marina Restaurant, Herne Bay passed away in Kent and Canterbury Hospital on 12th November 2009. Funeral service to be held on Friday 27th November 2009 at St Bartholomews, Herne Bay at 11.00am followed by interment at Herne Bay Cemetery and then afterwards at The Blue Dolphin, Reculver. His family welcomes everyone that enjoyed Jims company and cooking to join them to say goodbye.

PRENTICE
Jean Margaret Prentice of Chestfield passed away suddenly but peacefully on 16th November 2009. A wife, mum, grandmother and sister who will be sadly missed and forever in the thoughts of those closest to her. The funeral will be held at Barham on 25th November at 2.40pm. As Jean loved flowers any floral tributes welcome .

VAN PRAAGH
The family of Harry Van Praagh sadly need to inform all friends that dear Harry passed on 11th November, and will be very sadly missed, by his wife, daughters, grandchildren and great grandson. Harry is to be buried at St Marys Church Reculver for anyone wishing to pay their respects.Dearly loved and missed. With all our love always and forever.

Over the past 25 years, with the support of partners such as Land Rover, Born Free has taken action worldwide to protect threatened species and stop individual animal suffering.

But as the appeal is launched, less than 3,000 endangered wild tigers cling to survival; wild lion populations have fallen from 100,000 in 1980 to just 23,000 today; Africa's elephant population has dropped from 1.3 million to 450,000 in the past three decades; and Eastern Lowland gorillas may number just 5,000.

Dozens of celebrities from the world of music and entertainment are supporting the cause including Martin Clunes, Joanna Lumley, Peter Andre, Nick Knowles, Karen Hardy, Graham Norton, and Mark Austin. Last weekend Bryan Adams, Rolf Harris, Mutya Buena, Tony Mortimer and others performed at a Wild & Live! concert at the Royal Albert Hall to demonstrate their support for the appeal.

Supporting the work of Born Free is perhaps more important now than ever. For more information log on to www.bornfree.org.uk.

Will Travers, chief executive, Born Free Foundation

Our freedoms are being eroded

I have just been stopped for allegedly using my mobile phone while driving in what appeared to be a sting operation by police officers.

When I was pulled over I was told I had been seen, by other officers up the road, using the phone while driving.

I explained they were wrong, but was given a verbal warning and allowed to go on my way. I felt I had to write to remind people, and you in the press, that we should all keep an eye on the forces of law and order.

Kent Police have invested heavily in number plate recognition cameras. We are told that they will be used to monitor known criminals, terrorists, threats to society etc.

In fact, the system can be used for all manner of things – as the peaceful protester stopped by police in our county just because her registration number had been added to the system can confim – it seems it may not be used just to monitor criminals.

Too many people still say, 'If you've done nothing wrong, then there's nothing to worry about'.

But slowly and surely our freedoms are being eroded.

A friend of mine flying from Stansted to Cornwall had to take her passport to prove who she was.

She was stopped by police as she was preparing to board and asked what she would be doing there.

When she asked: "It's my business and if I choose not to tell you, what is the consequence?"

She was told by the grinning officer that they were within their rights to hold and question her for as long as necessary.

Surely this isn't right.

If my friend had been on some terrorist mission to Cornwall, she could have driven, hired a light plane or even walked, all without any need to allow an official to pry into her private life.

Name and address supplied

Letters continued from page 33

Cap-in-hand with Cameron

It would seem that after Tony Blair and Gordon Brown giving our country's freedoms to the EU, we now appear to be in line for Tory leader David Cameron to go cap-in-hand and grovel to the same corrupt people to beg for some of our toys back.

What an insult these so-called politicians are to this country. Surely Cameron could demand some of these things from a position of strength, if he had the guts. Sadly, that seems to be lacking in all of them.

If he was to hold a referendum on leaving the EU he may find, as we are the country giving the most and receiving the least, that Brussels would not want to lose the goose that lays the golden eggs.

RE Tucker, by email

Green in so many ways

I can tell Steve Dawe of Kent Green Party (Letters, last week) that the Lisbon Treaty will not make the European Union one iota more democratic than it already isn't. In fact, we can kiss goodbye to any further treaty negotiations as this last treaty is self-amending.

As for the policy of the Green Party to fundamentally reform the EU, this is a non-starter. Regarding the Common Agricultural Policy, why should the recipients of the billions of euros of farm subsidies agree to relinquish this golden handout paid for by British taxpayers.

Tony Blair negotiated away our rebate on the understanding that the CAP be reformed by 2013, but this has now been deemed impossible due to the financial crisis, although we have still lost the rebate.

Yes, technically a future government can hold a referendum, but it needs to ask the question, are we willing to continue being a member of this unreformable club or do we wish to leave and renegotiate our relationship with the EU as an independent nation.

Terry Kendall, Folkestone

Tainted MPs should resign

Hardly a day seems to pass without more reports about MPs and sleaze over expenses. Yet there seems to be a growing number of sitting members who are asking to "wipe the slate clean" or "make a clean start".

While many would be delighted to see the whole matter finally cleared up, at present there are still too many questions to be answered – and, hopefully, prosecutions to be announced (and fudged, no doubt).

In the interests of democratic government, would it not be a far better idea if all, repeat all, MPs were to stand down, technically at least, offer themselves to their executive committees for reselection and provide each committee member the chance to say yes or no?

There is still time for these processes to happen, although the longer the matter is left the more difficult it will be for constituencies to make changes as and where it is felt expedient.

Colin Davis, Woodchurch

BORN FREE FOUNDATION

Help stop animal suffering

I am writing to you to let your readers know about an appeal to save the lives of over 25,000 animals in the wild and alleviate the suffering of animals in captivity, including many threatened and endangered species.

As part of the quarter-century anniversary of the Born Free Foundation, an appeal is being launched in aid of our planet's threatened wildlife.

MONEY MATTERS

A little thought saves a long way

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Prepare yourself for the 50 per cent tax
- It pays to read the paperwork
- Being a good sport can pay off
- VAT is back, make sure you're ready
- Consumer legislation is under review
- Consider a greener investment
- Isn't it time the banks made changes?
- Road tax isn't the only financial burden
- Drive your way to bigger savings
- Cars versus bank accounts
- How the scarppage scheme adds up
- The cross-Channel people carrier

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what's inside

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Whilst the electorate loved it, not everyone's looking forward to the new 50 per cent tax rate that's due to come in next year, but it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom for those who have to pay

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Forewarned is forearemed when it comes to checking the lease for your business property, suffering a little paperwork now could save you from more later

Page 7
You can raise your company's profile without having to spend a fortune on advertising when you take up sport sponsorship

Pages 8-9
We all know VAT's due to return to 17.5 per cent with the coming of the new year, but what exactly does that mean for your business?

Pages 10
Consumer legislation is due for an overhaul as the European Parliament reviews current regulations, it's vital that you're prepared

Pages 12-13
Going green and eco-friendly are the new buzzwords for our way of life, but are they also becoming a more viable alternative for investing our hard earned? It looks like they might just be worth considering

Page 14
The country's paid the banks billions in bailout money, so isn't it about time we saw some of the benefits?

Page 15
Consider the bigger picture when trading in your car to downsize on road tax, it might not actually save you money

Page 16
Get your driving into gear and you could save a boot load of cash with these tips to keep you on track

Page 17
Is a bank account or a car a better investment? We take a look at some of the options worth considering

Page 18
After an overwhelming response to the Government Scrappage Scheme it's now been confirmed an extra £150m will be added to the pot, which is certainly worth considering, but don't worry if you can't enjoy the offer - there are a lot of great deals out there anyway

Pages 19
Our friends from across the Channel have proved how successful a van can be converted into a people carrier, and now we're learning to take advantage of the model too

Prudence will pay you dividends

CHRISTMAS is going to place its own demands on your bank account and many people are planning to spend less this year.

It is tough and while we are all waiting for any sign that the recession's over, the priority for both individuals and businesses is to make sure they survive until it's over.

This month in Money Matters there are tips for individuals and ideas for business to make your cash go further.

For you, check out some of the many money-saving offfers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk.

There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; and retail, trades and services.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

With just five weeks to go, it may easier spread out the present buying over a few months and the vouchers can help.

So why not spend a few minutes flicking through the online booklets, and you may end up being able to tick off a few people from your present list and save yourself money at the same time.

Happy shopping and we wish all of readers well.

FOR ALL THE INFORMATION ON HOW TO INCLUDE YOUR BUSINESS ON VOUCHERSFORKENT.CO.UK TELEPHONE KOS MEDIA ON 01303 817150

Essential guide to where you can save

- SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all landscaping
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free manicure at the same time as a cut and finish
- Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off leisure club joining fee when you present a voucher available from www.vouchersforkent-.co.uk
- KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, saving £20 on the RRP
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off everything in store every Saturday and Sunday
- Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering two complimentary personal training sessions with fully qualified instructors if you sign up with Bannatyne Health Club Ashford today
- Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available thanks to KOS offer
- Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories
- Secure Style windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

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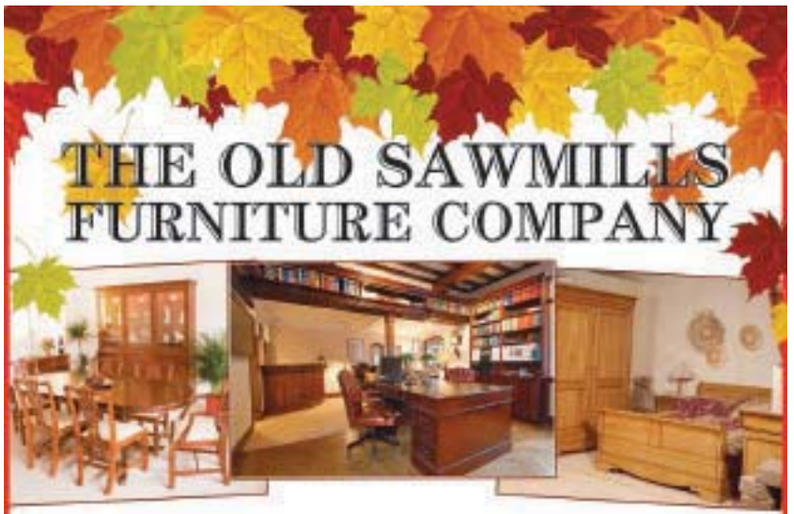

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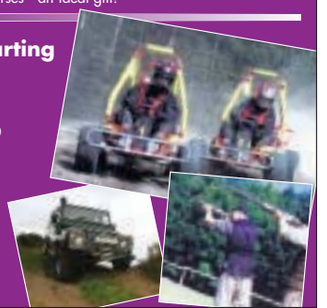

Avoid the January blues with early advice and support

MARK NEWMAN, a partner at newly launched HCW Recovery Solutions LLP, a corporate recovery service introduced through accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP, explains that with the right advice Kent's small and medium businesses (SMEs) can avoid the traditional difficulties of New Year survival

WHILE many businesses may be finding the going tough at the moment, there will be some for whom the Christmas and New Year period brings no festive cheer at all, leaving them facing the prospect of closing.

It's a depressing fact that more businesses fail in the first three months of the year than during any other quarter and this could be especially marked in 2010, as many firms are having to look more closely at how they operate and their cash flow in order to make it through the recession.

Why the seasonal headache? For SMEs, December is often a less productive time because of holidays, sickness and Christmas spirit, but wages still have to be paid during the yuletide break. The added difficulty in securing supplies, getting paid and often in simply getting work out of the door over the Christmas period means a severe cash crisis could be looming come January.

There's a widespread perception that insolvency is a last desperate resort, but we would always urge businesses to seek advice at an early stage as pre-emptive action can ensure the business continues. Burying your head in the sand can be as damaging for your business as it can with your health. It is far better to undergo minor surgery in order to make a recovery, than to let things drift and discover the prognosis is terminal.

There are also a number of steps SMEs can take to mitigate any nasty surprises which may be brought about by seasonal difficulties:

- Plan ahead and produce accurate management accounts on which to make sensible business decisions. At the very least, businesses need to determine which creditors, including the taxman, are pressing. And when and how they can be paid.
- Produce accurate cash-flow forecasts so you know where you stand and don't be afraid to talk to suppliers and customers about payment terms. More importantly, be open and honest with your staff.
- If problems loom – look at how you can reduce the gap between in and outgoings.
- Talk to an expert – are your business systems as efficient as they can be or are you wasting valuable management time and money? Is your business tax efficient too?
- Stay calm. Just because a business comes under pressure from creditors does not mean that, with the right action and advice, it cannot survive.
- The best tool is always planning ahead. If this problem is a regular occurrence at this time of year, a strategy is needed to iron out any cyclical problems. The key is always not to panic, take the right advice and be honest with yourself in making projections and forecasts. Plan for the worst-case scenario and the reality isn't likely to be nearly so bad.

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NEXT year the new 50 per cent tax rate will come into effect for high earners. It was a popular measure with the electorate, but was, understandably less well received by those earning more than £150,000 who will be the ones facing the increased contributions.

Those who fall into this bracket should be asking whether their money can work smarter for them. There are many ways to maximise the potential of your earnings and by talking through your position with an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) it should be possible to see how you can make your money work more efficiently.

There are various options, whether it is by being paid in dividends if you own the com-

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Some independent advice could save you a packet

Given how much time directors spend thinking about their company's money, it is surprising how little attention some of them pay to their own finances, says CHRIS WINNING, Managing Partner at Clydesdale Bank's financial solutions centre in Tunbridge Wells

pany, being paid in share options, incorporating yourself as a company if you are self-employed – an adviser can suggest what is best for you.

Clydesdale Bank has two business branches in Kent – Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells – but we also provide private banking solutions and our IFA service is an integral aspect of this. We have been holding a series of briefings in which our local IFAs, who have access to the most appropriate solutions from across the entire financial market, have been providing customers with guidance on the 50 per cent tax rate.

An IFA can also help with making other aspects of your finances more efficient including:

• **ISAs** – Compared to traditional savings accounts, ISAs are a tax-efficient way of saving money. Each year, you can invest up to £7,200 in an ISA. The full amount can be invested in a Stocks and Shares ISA, or you can deposit up to £3,600 in a Cash ISA and the balance in a Stocks and Shares ISA.

• **Inheritance Tax** – Inheritance tax is paid on your total estate – essentially everything you own when you die. This is currently levied at 40 per cent of the value above the current tax-exempt threshold of £325,000 (£650,000 for married couples or civil partners). There are various strategies that can be employed to limit the tax liability of your estate after your death.

• **Pensions** – Depending on your income, you will receive full tax relief from the government on any pension contributions you make, up to £245,000 annually (and up to a maximum of £1,750,000 over your lifetime). If you are a higher rate tax payer, this could prove to be a great way to invest your money tax-efficiently.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch – minimum table of four to qualify – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99 save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95+vat

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterburyis offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine only £99.99 inc p&p RRP £299.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department.

■ KOS is offering rechargable Micro Luggage Scales £19.99

■ KOS is ofering the Extreme Bra for £24.99

■ Rustic Summer House Company Ltd in Bearstead Nr Maidstone is offerng 10 per cent off for all the stock items

To get these offers go to: www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

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One of Kent's best kept secrets...

"My name is David Bailey - No, not the society photographer! Together with my wife, Nikki, we run Umbermaster, a local firm based in Broadstairs that employs skilled craftsmen to design, manufacture and install high quality fitted kitchens and bedrooms. For over 30 years Umbermaster has served home owners in Thanet and surrounding districts, building a reputation for high standards and professionalism that is second-to-none."

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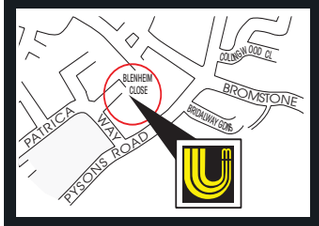

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Business property leases: Forewarned is forearmed

YOU'VE found the ideal new premises for your business, but before signing on the bottom line have you taken a close look at the lease? ***Richard Metcalfe*** of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks Chartered Building Surveyors, offers an insight into a little understood, but potentially very costly subject 'leasehold dilapidations'.

Everybody who leases a commercial property, regardless of its size or age, needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease, you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

Failing to understand the terms of your lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome costs at the end of their term.

For example, an occupier of industrial premises wished to vacate one unit and move into another. Naturally anxious to minimise their liabilities on each of the premises, they sought professional advice and settled at £75,000, approximately 50 per cent of the amount claimed on the property being vacated. The new premises had been inadequately refurbished and had a roof nearing the end of its life. After negotiation the landlord completed the refurbishment to a higher standard and provided a new roof, saving the incoming tenant £65,000 and ensuring a trouble-free period of occupation. In total £140,000 was saved by taking appropriate dilapidations advice.

SIGN: Know what you are signing up for

In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and involve substantial legal costs.

Chartered Building Surveyors work closely with legal advisors to negotiate the pitfalls of dilapidations, ensuring their clients, be they landlords or leaseholders, respectively maximise their gains or minimise their losses when buildings are being vacated.

Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a Building Survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities. This ensures the true cost of the lease can be measured and contingencies made to avoid unexpected costs when the building is handed back.

As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor. A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and sufficient detail by an experienced chartered building surveyor practitioner.

If you are the prospective leaseholder the message is: Forewarned is forearmed – consult your chartered building surveyor before you sign the lease, and again in the last year of the lease, so that you may plan your effective exit. The key is not waiting until you receive a Schedule of Dilapidations from your landlord.

• ***Metcalfe Stanley Hicks – www.mshcbs.co.uk – is experienced in advising both landlords and leaseholders in respect of their liabilities under commercial leases for repair of buildings and in costing disrepair and pursuing claims.***

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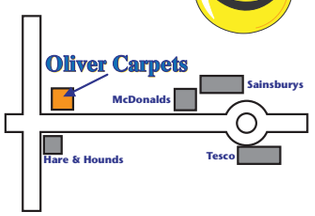

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Enjoy a winning streak with sport sponsorship

By **RODNEY CHAMBERS**

WHEN it comes to building a company's profile, as well as investing in the internet, media relations and advertising, many also look to put their hard-earned cash and name to a sporting endeavour.

One such company is GSE Group, the construction group based in Ashford. It's been a case of 'nothing breeds success like success' thanks to the winning ways of GSE Racing Airwaves Yamaha Superbike team. Over the years motor racing has provided an excellent opportunity for the business to market itself to existing and potential clients.

GSE Racing is the most successful team in British Superbike history, with five championship titles (including the 2009 Championship), countless race wins and a reputation for producing future world champions. Its Airwaves Yamaha team riders, Leon Camier and James Ellison, finished the 2009 season as champion and runner-up respectively.

Darrell Healey, founder and chairman of GSE Group, utilised his passion for motor racing and recognised that performance on track could help promote the business, when he first put the company name to the GSE Racing team back in 1997.

In addition to the association of success, GSE Group is able to use its sponsorship as a unique opportunity to offer first class hospitality to clients in a thrilling race-fuelled environment. Derek Gilburt, a director at GSE Group said: "At GSE Group, we interpret high quality corporate entertainment as an investment. We aim to differentiate ourselves from competitors and offer face to face time with clients in a relaxed and informal environment".

The construction industry is still a fiercely price driven market and GSE Group recognises the importance of establishing and maintaining both personal and professional relationships with its clients. At a time when many companies are reducing marketing budgets, the GSE Group uses client entertainment as a way of controlling its marketing spend through strategic activity.

Derek Gilburt continues: "Corporate entertainment provides access to a targeted and captive audience. If you're going to invest time and money in a corporate event, it's important to ensure you have the right clients there, and this is much easier in a controlled hospitality environment."

The use of corporate entertainment via the GSE Racing team adds further value to GSE Group by creating a lasting impression with key decision makers. Derek Gilburt added: "When an existing client takes up a new position with a company we've not yet formed a relationship with, they can provide access to a whole new opportunity. At GSE Group, we know that showing commitment to our clients in the long term has benefits way beyond the chequered flag."

ON TRACK: GSE Group is the name behind the GSE Racing Airwaves Yamaha Superbike Team

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VAT you need

ALTHOUGH HM Revenue and Customs has a new 45 page guidance document on its website and 13 pages on the anti-avoidance rules, many businesses will need help to understand them during the coming months. If you are in any doubt about the changes, seek specialist advice as early as possible.

HMRC has stated it will not specifically target change of errors unless there is a loss of revenue, if you do make errors you may have to account for extra VAT you have not charged, plus interest and a potential penalty of up to 30 per cent for not taking reasonable care. By planning early you may be able to improve your own cash flow and help some customers save VAT.

Tax point rules

For any supply of goods or services VAT has to be charged at the so-called 'tax point'.

For goods, the basic tax point is when the goods are delivered or made available. But this is overridden if invoicing or payment occurs earlier. If both occur before the basic tax point it is whichever is the earliest.

Example 1: On December 15 I order a computer to be delivered in mid January. I pay the invoice dated December 15 on the same day. The VAT rate is 15 per cent. Many retailers are likely to promote the 2.5 per cent VAT saving and it will improve their own cash flow.

But there are also special rules which aim to assist mainly large businesses' invoicing and accounting procedures.

Example 2: Goods are handed over to a business customer on December 28, but the invoice follows on January 5 and is paid on February 5. Although the basic tax point is the first event, if the invoice is issued within 14 days that date is treated as the VAT tax point. As it is after December 31

GOING UP: Be prepared for the VAT rate rise in January

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to know about change

On December 1, 2008, there was a lot of confusion when the standard rate of VAT was reduced from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent. With the rate now due to revert to 17.5 per cent from January 1, 2010, **ALAN BUCKETT**, Head of VAT Services at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, explains the implications

VAT at 17.5 per cent is chargeable. This is unlikely to concern VAT registered customers who can reclaim VAT incurred on business expenditure in full and may be easier for suppliers who invoice within 14 days of supplying goods.

But there are also optional 'change of rate' rules. In example 2, if the customer is VAT registered but is partly exempt, they cannot reclaim all the VAT. If the basic tax point is before January 1 the optional change of rate rules allow the supplier to charge VAT at 15 per cent even though its invoice is issued after December 31.

For services, the tax point depends on the type of service provided.

For a one-off service like repairing a burst pipe over two days, the basic tax point occurs on the day the service is completed. However, if invoicing and/or payment occur earlier, one of those dates, whichever is the earlier, overrides the basic tax point. Unregistered or partly exempt clients may prefer to be invoiced before January 1 for a service to be performed early next year in order to save VAT.

For continuous services, like ongoing legal or accountancy advice which is billed periodically, there is no performance tax point, so invoicing and payment, whichever is the earlier, fixes the VAT tax point.

Example 3: A firm of lawyers provides ongoing legal advice to a VAT registered business which can reclaim all the VAT. It issues an invoice on February 1, 2010 for work carried out between November 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010. It charges VAT at 17.5 per cent.

Example 4: Say the client in example 3 is a private individual. The optional change of rate rules allow the law firm to apportion the work done up to December 31 and charge 15 per cent VAT and then charge 17.5 per cent VAT on the remainder. Can your invoicing systems cope with this?

Anti-avoidance

To prevent connected persons manipulating the change of rate rules, the Government has introduced anti-avoidance legislation. In practice the number of transactions likely to be affected may be minimal.

Essentially, if you answer yes to one or more of the following you should seek specialist advice:

- Is the value of the supply more than £100,000 (excluding VAT)?
- Are the supplier and customer 'connected'?
- Is an advance invoice before January 1 not payable within six months?
- For prepayment arrangements is the supplier, or anyone connected to the supplier, financing the prepayment?

Other issues

The above is only a brief warning on some of the issues to be considered. Different businesses will be faced with specific issues, like those using cash accounting, the flat rate scheme, private fuel scale charges, etc. will need to consider the implications carefully.

Key points

- Consider which of your customers are VAT registered and can reclaim all the VAT you charge them.
- How many of your customers can only recover part of the VAT you charge or none at all? Consider whether you can help these clients save VAT.
- Can your IT and invoicing systems cope with the basic, 14 day and optional change of rate tax point rules?
- Seek specialist advice early. Remember that VAT rules depend on specific and detailed facts so you must provide full information.

For more information call 01622 690666 or e-mail alan.buckett@dsh.co.uk or fiona.ratcliff@dsh.co.uk.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Canterbury Hyundai motor dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs
- Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering this deal: buy two large glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle free at the Victory pub
- Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering a Lifeshine full car care for £299
- Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250
- Secure Style, windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors
- Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering a free upgrade on underlay
- Cliftonvile tile centre in Cliftonville is offering free adhesive and grout on all tile orders over 15 metres
- Decorators Choice, supplier of paints an wallpapers in Canterbury, is offering 15 per cent off all paints
- Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening. Lines and wrinkle reduction treatment
- Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering FREE car mats with all new Mazda purchases new and used
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

The changing landscape of consumer legislation

BY **JENNIFER EDWARDS**

THE European Parliament will debate the Consumer Rights Directive later this month, completing a review of consumer rights across the European Union which has already resulted in the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

The Directive aims to provide a uniform set of consumer rights across the EU by granting consumers a minimum level of contractual rights and remedies whilst retaining the general principles of contract law in each member state. Existing sector-specific legislation will prevail over the generic standards. The ultimate aim is to encourage consumers to buy goods across the EU.

Changes which favour UK consumers include: the right not to pay any additional charges not notified to them at the outset; a longer cooling-off period of 14 days; the right to a refund within seven days (currently 30 days) for late or non-delivery and the right to require a price reduction or refund in certain circumstances.

Changes which favour UK businesses include: the right, when a customer cancels the contract, to withhold reimbursement until the goods have been returned (currently, a refund within 30 days is required); the right to refuse a refund for minor defects and a reduction in the statutory liability period for defective goods from six years to two years (one year for second-hand goods).

Service providers looking to expand into the EEA (other than in sectors such as financial services, transport and healthcare) will benefit from a streamlined process when the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 come into force at the end of next month. A single point of contact will be established in each country (for example, Business Link in the UK) to deal with enquiries and applications to trade in that country. Consumers will benefit from a single online advice service in each country. The Regulations encourage co-operation between regulatory bodies across the EEA, particularly in relation to businesses which pose a danger to the environment, public health and/or safety and introduce new sanctions. However, the Regulations also add to, rather than consolidate, the existing lists of information which businesses must provide to customers.

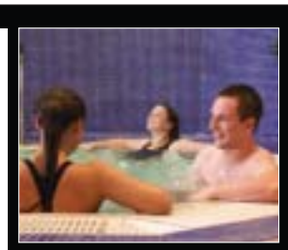
REVIEW: The European Parliament will debate the Consumer Rights Directive this month

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 create an EU-wide list of commercial practices which are unfair if they affect a consumer's decision and a blacklist of 31 banned practices. The Regulations apply to all consumer contracts but may also affect contracts between businesses which have a close connection with consumers - for example, a distribution agreement where the end-user is a consumer. The Regulations encourage the free-flow of information across the EU, particularly in relation to enforcement action. The OFT now has the right to request that its equivalent body in, say, France takes enforcement action against a French company which has breached the Regulations in relation to a consumer located in the UK. The OFT also has additional investigative powers and can, for example, inspect goods without a warrant.

Surprisingly, or perhaps as a result of the scale and nature of the changes, the OFT has stated that it wishes to encourage self-regulation where it is more appropriate than enforcement or intervention. To this end, the OFT has set up the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme and the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme Network. In addition, the OFT will support industry-based schemes which require a higher standard of compliance than the legal minimum but will not give formal approval or guarantee a "safe harbour".

As with all new regulation, the hope is that the benefits will outweigh the additional administrative and legal burden, but it remains to be seen whether cross-border buying increases significantly as a result.

• ***Jennifer Edwards is from Thomson Snell & Passmore***



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- KOS is offering personalised Weekender bags for only £29.99
- Caffyns Vauxhall motor dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicles when you present your voucher only at Caffyns Vauxhall Chevrolet
- KOS is offering Garden Sonic Blaster for only £29.99
- The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering 30 per cent off colouring
- KOS is offering Zero Gravity recliner chairs from only £124.99
- Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing
- KOS is offering Sanderson Summer Breeze bedlinen. Save £50 on RRP
- Caffyns Vauxhall motor dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half price MOTs with a service
- KOS is offering Remington Titanium washable shaver for only £49.99 inc p&p save £50 off RRP

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Can you make

By **JEREMY GATES**

ALTHOUGH Prime Minister Gordon Brown thinks next month's Copenhagen Climate Change Summit could save the planet, others are thinking more about the potential benefits from investing in the growing 'Green' agenda.

With National Ethical Investment Week ending on November 14, that concept has been to the fore. New figures show that the amount held in ethical funds – which invest only in companies deemed to help and protect the environment – has soared from £1.5 billion a decade ago to around £7b today.

The first ethical managed fund, F&C Asset Management's Stewardship Growth, celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer. It manages £2.4b of ethical investment in four funds.

Many people probably have part of their pension pots in leading ethical funds including Jupiter Ecology (market cap £307 million), BlackRock New Energy (£106m) and Schroders Global Climate Change Fund (£20m), which launched in 2007.

A special poll by YouGov, carried out for this week's campaign, reveals that 49 per cent of savers want to 'make a difference' – and make money – from ethical investments. The survey also found the 55-plus age group is keenest to back the green agenda, both when they save and when they spend.

But even with nearly 100 green and ethical funds to choose from, only 8 per cent of investors hold a green financial product.

"Investors are starting to see how they can profit from the shift to a more sustainable world, as events like Copenhagen lift sustainability issues up the political and media agendas," says George Latham, head of socially responsible investment at fund manager Henderson New Star.

"There is growing interest from investors in themes that provide solutions to sustainability changes, including water management and education, alongside more traditional green investment themes such as cleaner energy and sustainable transport."

In theory, as green regulations force consumers to spend more on measures to cut energy bills, the case for long-term green investment – either in managed funds, or shares like waste specialists Biffa (now taken private) and Shanks – looks a no-brainer.

"Large numbers of people are putting their money where their mouth is and doing their bit to create a sustainable future," says Penny Shepherd, chief executive of UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association promoting NEIW.

"There are simple steps you can take to apply these principles to your pension, ISA and other investments."

That's the theory. But finding successful ethical investments isn't always easy.

When M&S launched an Ethical Fund in 2007, I fixed a £75 monthly direct debit. Thirty months on, my holding is worth £200 less than the total paid in, so my cash would have done better in a building society.

Green shares are even harder to fathom: Newcastle-based Eaga is an obvious beneficiary in the fight against climate change, because it turns over £750m a year making homes more energy efficient to meet the Government target of cutting carbon emissions by 25 per cent by 2020.

As many bills for this work are paid by public-sector grants, Eaga looks pretty recession-proof. Yet its shares – which cost 181p each in June 2007, when the company floated – changed hands this

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Sun 20th	Calais Christmas Markets	£19.50

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money going green?

week at 143p. All 5,000 Eaga employees are shareholders, with other shares held mainly by big institutions.

Andy Parsons at The Share Centre isn't surprised by this.

"All sorts of green ideas and environmental initiatives are discussed at top level," he says, "But you must remember that their impact on everyday life is still fairly limited.

"People are slowly changing their habits and their consumption patterns, but it is only when these changes become dramatic that you will see really significant growth in earning patterns flowing through to companies, and to the funds which invest in them."

Another recent problem for ethical funds is that they won't hold shares in oil, mining and tobacco companies – which have driven this year's rally on the London market.

Because investing in the green revolution is so complex, most people ask a specialist financial advisor to suggest a suitable fund.

Recommendations by The Share Centre include: Allianz Global Eco trends, a £19m fund run by Bozena Jankowska focusing on alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and environmental quality; Jupiter Ecology; and Schroder Global Change.

At the F&C Stewardship International Fund, which delivered a 21 per cent return in the past year, fund manager Terry Coles attributes his recent success to the decision to expand ethical investing techniques beyond the "traditional stomping ground" of the US and Britain to fast-growing emerging markets, notably Asia and Latin America.

Impax is a smaller fund manager, holding £1.4b of investors' money, but its expertise in the ethical sector is widely accepted.

"The environmental sector offers better growth and returns than the mainstream economy and is therefore a smart place to allocate funds, whether you are ethically motivated or not," says Ian Simm, manager of the Impax Environmental Markets fund.

Impax has successfully identified fast-growing companies in renewable energy, water treatment, energy efficiency and environmental consultancy. One of its major investments is Vestas, a Danish maker of wind turbines.

In five years, Impax Environmental Markets Fund has turned £100 into £161. Last month, Impax raised £104.5m to launch a new Asian Environment Markets investment trust to tap the potential of the Asia-Pacific.

"The big difference is that in the last big recession in the early 1990s, companies focused on environmental operations were seen as a luxury which a struggling economy couldn't really afford," says Simm.

"Now environmental issues are at the centre of fiscal stimulation policy, and how to get the economy kickstarted again in the next couple of years.

"If Copenhagen achieved no agreement at all, it would be a negative signal to the energy efficiency business. I have little doubt some useful agreement will emerge in due course, if not within the first two days."

On past form, however, nobody invests in ethical funds for a quick profit, or high annual income. Mostly they pay minimal dividends, so investors must be convinced they will see a decent capital gain over the medium to long-term as new technology moves into the mainstream.

LONG TERM INVESTMENT: Green investments are increasingly an option for savers

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Big bailout, but little change to services

As billions more pounds of taxpayers' cash has been pumped into Britain's ailing banks, holders of more than 40 million current accounts might hope that the management of their financial affairs is about to be transformed.

By **JEREMY GATES**

Surely, we must get something for all that money? As the Government stumps up another £33.5 billion, the bailout bill for Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group soared to £76b – and the total 'bank rescue' bill hit £20,000 for every person in Britain.

In this latest deal, forced through by the European Union, about 1,000 bank branches could change hands, profitable insurance companies like Churchill and Direct Line must be sold by RBS – and ancient names could return, such as Williams and Glyn's Bank.

Lloyds's hapless shareholders, who have lost millions since the bank's disastrous 'rescue' of HBOS in autumn 2008, must stump up another £21b in the biggest rights issue of all time with no chance of a dividend before 2012.

Meanwhile, out of the wreckage could step Tesco Bank, and maybe a Virgin Money Bank too, if somebody finds the cash while Sir Richard Branson's team adds marketing fizz.

Their first target? Maybe the £2.65b charges on unauthorised overdrafts that the Office of Fair Trading thinks form too big a part of £8b profits made on current accounts each year.

Most bank customers, however, will see little immediate benefit from this upheaval, says Annie Shaw at CashQuestions.com.

"Customers of existing banks, whether under new ownership or not, are unlikely to see any change in the trend towards higher – if more transparent – charges, cautious lending and the gradual ending of free current-account banking," she says.

Kevin Mountford, head of banking at money supermarket.com, says more competition generally heralds a better deal for consumers, so new entrants to the market would be welcome.

But a moneysupermarket.com survey reveals only four per cent of consumers would trust a supermarket brand to look after their finances, and only 10 per cent would expect better service from a supermarket than a bank. Only a quarter said they would take out a credit card with a supermarket brand.

Mountford thinks the best thing to emerge could be a simpler, faster service when switching accounts: "The way you are shoehorned into an organisation that you don't like must be changed. We need a healthy switching environment which allows people to move freely.

"I think Tesco, which already offers a range of financial services, will do something soon. They might not wait for an asset sale, which could take three or four years to unfold.

"Any new entrants in the marketplace will have to do something which sets them apart, in product innovation or service standards – maybe branches opening 8am-8pm."

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk believes fresh blood is needed in the banking sector, with simple well-priced products, to give customers better choices.

"Customers don't want to continually chase best-buy rates or have to try to figure out pitfalls hidden deep in terms and conditions of ever-more complex accounts," he says.

Innovation

"High Street banking giants have got used to having it their own way, and have got more complacent as competition has dwindled.

"Innovative new players who can balance shareholder and customer expectations have a window of opportunity to convince millions of consumers that they represent a credible banking alternative, one worth switching to."

Of course, nobody really knows how fast the changes in retail banking will come along.

Meanwhile, savvy bank customers – particularly the two-thirds who stay in credit each month – can find better value accounts by sifting through those already available, mostly outside the banks in distress.

"Consider how you use your account – are you in credit or in the red? From there, you can find a best buy," says Hagger.

Nationwide's Flexaccount, for example, has attractions for first-time buyers because Britain's biggest building society is offering 90 per cent mortgages to account holders. The Flexaccount debit card slashes the cost of purchases and cash withdrawals abroad, and is much cheaper than rivals, even after a one per cent charge outside Europe imposed this year.

Hagger also tips Halifax Reward account as a best buy for those in credit.

"There is a £5 credit paid in every month when you pay in a minimum £1,000, and no charges if you stay in the black," he says.

"Once in the red, you are clobbered: if your overdraft is under £2,500, the charge is £1 a day. Over £2,500, it's £2 a day and any unauthorised borrowing is £5 per day."

The theme runs through most best-buy accounts: millions who stay in the black accept a poorer service than they could find elsewhere, if they bothered to look.

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Road tax gains not that great yet

Superminis like the cool Alfa Romeo MiTo are tempting says **STEVE LOADER**, but you need more than road tax and even fuel savings to justify chopping your old motor for one.

THINK ABOUT IT: There are more costs to a car than road tax for you to consider

Road tax bands

(post March 1, 2001, cars)

Band A (0-100g/km of CO2) – £0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

WHATEVER you do, don't trade-in your car just to win back a few pounds a year on road tax.

If the car is reliable and not ridiculously thirsty then it is just not worth saving up to £185 a year on the maximum rate for a car registered before March 1, 2001, by downsizing to a newer, dearer lower emission model.

If it is a newer car then there is every chance you will take a major hit on depreciation that cannot be recouped by road tax and fuel benefits.

On the other hand, if you are making the decision for a number of reasons – lower insurance, more convenient size or body style, social conscience as well as cheaper tax and fuel bills – then maybe it is time to fall in with the Government's drive to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road.

The tax penalties could have been worse, to be fair, if Chancellor Alistair Darling had not relented after seeing that the gloom of recession might have sparked a roads revolt by hard-pressed motorists.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying them to cars registered after 1 March 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills or cover relatively fewer miles.

Alternatively, they can opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion, which should then halve their fuel costs – filling stations offering LPG have become increasingly common.

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*7-year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. †Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Model shown is Kia 1.4 cee'd '1' @ £7,995 On The Road (OTR) after deducting £2,000 Government and Kia Scrappage incentive and £1,900 customer saving. Government Scrappage incentive applies to cars registered on or before 28/02/2000 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. OTR prices include VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic paint option £395.00 inc. VAT. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 October 2009 and 31 December 2009.

ECO DRIVE: Sharply-styled models like the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX and Chevrolet Cruze will cut running costs, but being more savvy behind the wheel can protect your wallet too

Drive smart – smart savings

BUYING a new car to save on tax, fuel, insurance and overall running costs must be just part of a motoring budget review.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short hops also mean extra servicing and more engine wear. If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

• Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should try car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

• Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

• Check tyres – under-inflated ones need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

• Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves 'juice' too.

• Accelerate briskly without racing the engine; pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

• Remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the cabin fan and vents unassisted.

• Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – it's half the price of petrol and cleaner.

• Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

• Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

• Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine to save fuel and emissions.

• ***For more eco tips take a look at Julie Maddocks' online video report at: www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.***

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How best to save – buy a new car or bank the cash?

RECESSION-hit Brits are saving more despite weak interest rates, but is this sensible for those who need to run a car?

Might it be better to take advantage of near desperation discounts in the car showrooms – especially in the trade's 'dead zone' either side of Christmas – and liberate low yield savings in search of one of the many new car bargains around the moment?

Even better, if you have a ten-year-old car costing a lot to run then you can still apply for the Government-sponsored £2,000 Scrappage grant. Against a small car, that two grand saving is a hefty discount, but the discounts on bigger models can be greater with or without a Scrappage banger to trade in.

Okay, a car costs thousands with or without the discount, but it will take years to earn four figure sums from banking at the rates offered now and for some time to come.

And you can make further savings after driving off the forecourt too by downsizing and opting for a model incurring lower road tax, fuel bills and other running costs.

Even if, after raiding the bank account and waving your 'wad' at the car salesman, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

A generous warranty of up to seven years is also worth having. And be cheeky – ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any add-ons you might fancy.

A GOOD SAVING: Chic, eco-friendly and well-priced – the Mazda2 mounts a strong savings argument against leaving your cash in the bank

But do ensure you are not buying a car on 'run out', where production or importing ceased a while ago. Choose the engine carefully too; with fuel prices volatile, you don't want to trade one gas guzzler for another.

Buy wisely and your new vehicle could save you a fortune, even on depreciation, though cars always devalue.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern, more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, you might have lost tons already on that big 4x4, but do work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guzzlers face £950 a year road tax from next year – but it is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by tax-exempt diesel and hybrid models, check the price. The 'eco star' might save £105 in road tax over three years, but you will pay more upfront.

So, check out the conventional equivalents and don't dismiss petrol; it is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used
- Robins and Day motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99
- Motorline Renault motor dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older
- Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting for only £10
- UK Stone stone merchant in Hersden near Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off Sandstone and limestone list price
- Robins and Day motor dealer in Rochester is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99
- Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering a free lock when you purchase a bike instore
- SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off landscaping
- FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering half price MOT with full service
- Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering memberships from as little as £29 a month
- UK Stone stone merchants in Hersden nr Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off sandstone spheres

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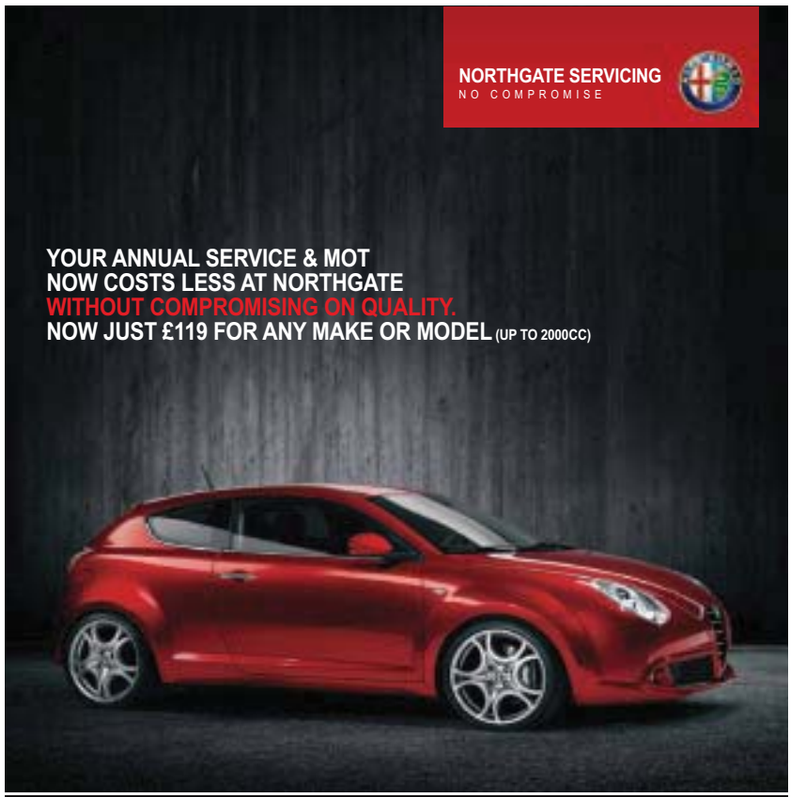

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Scrappage strikes all the right notes with car buyers

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a top up at the Labour Party Conference, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive should have enough gas in the tank to last the pace.

Enthusiasm was so great though, that the original £300 million fund set aside to last until March 2010 looked woefully inadequate until Business Secretary Lord Mandelson confirmed a further £150m would be added – enough to finance a further 100,000 deals on top of the 200,000 already signed.

The offer is that the donor car or van going to the crusher must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and the owner's name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date he or she places their new car order.

Carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to foot half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting the Treasury would claw back some money through VAT on each car sale anyway.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is not the greatest lure when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with bank savings know they are receiving precious little return and may be tempted by a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing to have a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research; diesel cars now outsell petrol, but cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you must drive many miles to recover that extra upfront outlay. Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

SMALL SAVERS: Nissan's British-built Micra supermini has been a major beneficiary of the successful Government Scrappage scheme and the trend towards downsizing

Essential guide to where you can save

- Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139
- KOS is offering the Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99
- Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub
- KOS is offering the Pulsar Military Style Chronograph Watch. Save £20. Offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99
- FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering £250 of accessories with Network Q purchases
- KOS is offering Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99
- Robins and Day motor dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99
- Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off a 4X4 off-road driving experience
- KOS is offering solar powered bird baths. Save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP, £149.99
- Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free day pass when you call into village leisure club and exchange your voucher – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

The cross-Channel recession-busters

BY **STEVE LOADER**

DOWNSIZING is the buzzword with cash-strapped UK car buyers so supermini sales are soaring, but what if you can't squeeze the family into one or you simply need more room?

The French have the answer in the form of cheap and capacious van-based MPVs.

These might look like Postman Pat styled them and Bob the Builder did the road testing, but their origins are more to do with family needs in the vast rural hinterland across the Channel.

The simple format was to take a small van with sliding rear side doors and add seats and huge windows, creating an MPV thousands of pounds cheaper than a 'proper' people carrier.

Being vans, they were also offered with tried and trusted – and economical – diesel engines

Having succeeded beyond their wildest dreams and frontiers though, French manufacturers have also gone a stage further and designed the current generation to handle far better than before.

The latest Peugeot Partner Tepee – also sold by Citroën as the Berlingo Multispace – is based on the company's 308 car, so there is less of a drunken sailor's gait on corners than its predecessor.

And Renault has just launched the second generation version of its hugely successful Kangoo – rhymes with 'can do' – also based on a car platform, in this case the marque's posh Scenic, so you get a chassis designed for the people carrier task at a much lower price.

Italy's Fiat has got in on the act and jointly builds a smaller van-based MPV version known as the Qubo, along with Peugeot (Bipper Tepee) and Citroën (Nemo Multispace) and even this has car-based underpinnings from its own Grande Punto supermini.

The immediate appeal of these cars is easy access to the box-shaped rear thanks to those sliding doors. Unlike many MPVs there is also still a massive boot behind the rear seats, which can usually be folded and arranged in various settings for maximum flexibility.

A big lift up tailgate doubles as a rain shelter or shade when picnicking or 'grandstanding' at events.

The headroom is almost ridiculously lofty and you can buy many of these cars specc'd up with airliner-style overhead lockers, though the sporty often use this extra space for stowing fishing rods, skis, mountain bikes and other gear and, of course, a spot of removals for Aunt Gladys' new flat is no big deal – in another life, they were vans.

PREVIOUS LIFE: Peugeot's Partner Tepee, top, and the Renault Kangoo are just two of the many more affordable van-based people carriers to have started crossing the channel

Essential guide to where you can save

- Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch before November 1 – minimum table of four to qualify – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk
- KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP
- Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95, plus VAT
- KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99
- Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off everything
- KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99
- Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department
- KOS is offering rechargable micro luggage scales £19.99
- KOS is ofering the Extreme bra for £24.99

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SXi Range: urban 35.3 (8.0) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 56.5 (5.0) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 46.3 (6.1) - 62.8 (4.5), CO_2 Emissions 146 - 119 g/km.

Model shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. 3 Years 0% Finance available with 20% minimum deposit. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers. UK supplied vehicles only. To be eligible for the Corsa Free Insurance offer Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-88 and will need to have held a full UK/EU driving licence for at least 2 years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note that additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. Vauxhall Motor Insurance is underwritten by Provident Insurance plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Free insurance in Northern Ireland is underwritten by AXA Insurance Limited, regulated by the Financial Regulator and obliged to comply with the ICOBS rules issued by the Financial Services Authority. The free involuntary redundancy cover is optional and is offered to customers who take out a finance agreement with GMAC from a participating FSA authorised retailer. The cover, which is subject to eligibility, is for the first 24 months of the finance agreement (excluding the first 90 days, and is up to a maximum of 12 monthly payments). Terms and conditions apply (see Retailer for further details of cover). The insurance is provided by Finance Insurance Company Limited. Other providers of redundancy cover are available, for more information see www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk. £2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria, refer to Government funding applies. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small business (1-24 purchase only). Take delivery before the 31st December to beat the VAT increase. All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 02.10.09 and 02.12.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions.

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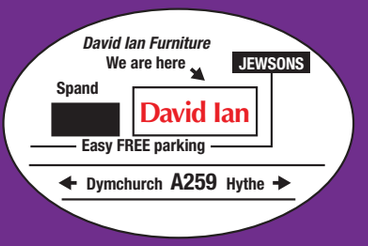

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University votes new man onto govenors' board

THE chief executive of a Kent-based care home provider has been elected onto the board of governors at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Mr Cedric Frederick

Avante Partnership's Cedric Frederick will also become a member of the university's finance and resources committee and will serve an initial three-year term.

Brian Munday, chairman of the Faversham-based firm, said: "This is an excellent appointment for Canterbury Christ Church and recognition of Cedric's experience and growing reputation in Kent.

"We are very pleased to support this appointment."

High praise for trio who've got it all figured out

TALENTED accountancy students were rewarded for outstanding exam results at the annual dinner of the South Eastern Society of Chartered Accountants (Sesca).

Laura Howell, from Sevenoaks, Andreas Olymbiou, from Maidstone, and Richard Appleyard, from Tonbridge, were among those singled out for praise.

Sesca president Ara Martirossian said: "The journey to becoming a chartered accountant is no easy ride. It is a real test of determination, commitment and tenacity.

"Laura, Andreas and Richard have done very well to have achieved these results."

Lecture on UK by ambassador

EUROPEAN relations will be explored at a public lecture given by the ambassador of Romania tomorrow.

In anticipation of the country's national day on December 1, Dr Ion Jinga will give a talk entitled Romania and the United Kingdom – European values and strategic partnership.

The lecture will take place at 5.30pm in Old Sessions House at Canterbury Christ Church University. Call Tracy Clark on 01227 782915 to reserve a place.

CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Bluewater's Andrew Parkinson (fifth left) with the apprentices about to embarked on a career in the retail industry

Dragon warms to new retail apprenticeships

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DRAGON'S Den star Theo Paphitis is backing a new retail apprenticeship scheme launched this week at Bluewater shopping centre.

The initiative is one of several run by the Bluewater Learning Shop – a partnership between Lend Lease, North West Kent College and JobCentre Plus that has helped more than 22,000 people find employment over the past 10 years.

Business tycoon Paphitis – chairman of the stationery firm Ryman – is a patron of the sector skills council for retail, Skillsmart Retail.

He said: "Retail apprenticeships are good for business, offering apprentices the chance to earn while developing practical skills and building up their knowledge to gain recognised qualifications.

"This provides employers with highly-motivated individuals, thus boosting productivity.

"This scheme supports young workers and provides a knowledgeable insight into the retail industry."

The Bluewater apprenticeship scheme has been launched at a time when there are currently 2.47 million unemployed people in the UK, with 37.8 per cent of them classed as Neets – young people aged between 16-24 who are 'not in employment, education or training'.

The first six to benefit from the initiative are: Ruden Yamang, 18, from Chatham; Nick Jelfs, 19, from Dartford; Kai Cocklin, 18, from Bexleyheath; Piri Longendran, 18, from Greenhithe; Katie Barnard, 18, from Welling in Bexley; and Danny Rogers, 18, from Dartford.

Danny said: "It's a privilege to be part of the Bluewater Apprenticeship Scheme because we are paving the way. We have a reputation to build, not only for ourselves, but for Bluewater as well. I would definitely recommend the scheme, it's a fantastic opportunity."

Bluewater general manager Andrew Parkinson said: "Bluewater launched the apprenticeship scheme as part of its 10th anniversary commitment.

"It is important to develop the next generation of retail experts while supporting the local community by providing jobs and training to such an important part of the population."

THUMB'S UP: Dragon's Den's Theo Paphitis

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Closing Date: 04 December 2009

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Hours	**37 hours per week**
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An application form can be obtained from the school by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk.

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Closing date: 12noon on 3rd December 2009

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Community Liaison Officer
Grade: C2 – Salary: £19,621- £26,276
Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year (variable in accordance with the needs of the Children's Centre)
Location: Miers Court Primary School
Silverspot Close Rainham Gillingham Kent ME8 8JR
Tel: 01634 388943 or e-mail: office@mierscourt.medway.sch.uk

Would you like to be part of the exciting new Children's Centre at Miers Court Primary School?

We are seeking to recruit a Community Liaison Officer to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre. Someone who welcomes new challenges, has an excellent sense of humour and is willing to lead a team offering new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies.

Applicants should have:
education to degree level or relevant experience
• the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community.
• a good knowledge of the local community.
• excellent communication and leadership skills.
• the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports.
• the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families
• a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment.
• an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals.
• a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly.

Informal visits to the school are most welcome.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Mrs Sue McCracken, Headteacher, on Tel: 01634 388943 or email patts004@medway.org.uk
Closing Date: 15th December 2009

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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary: TBC
Closing Date: 28/11/09
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary: negotiable
Closing Date: 28/11/09
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

PERSONNEL and OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Sevenoaks
Salary: £16,649 per annum
To apply/more information: Rockdale House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 458762
Email enquiries@rockdale.org.uk

Administrator
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 25th November 2009
Date: 25th November 2009
To apply/more information: AMACSports Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 833000
Email jeanette.saunders@amactraining.co.uk

Receptionist
Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Porsche Centre Tonbridge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sharon.mallin@porschetonbridge.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Coffeeshop Supervisor
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: C & H Fabrics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 773611
Email andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk

Food Services Assistant
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: C & H Fabrics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 773611
Email andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk

Experienced Commis Chef
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Souffle Restuarant
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 737065
Email karenevenden@hotmail.com

Chef
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: King's Head
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 843264
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Bar and Waiting Staff
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: King's Head
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 843264
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Playgroup Staff
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: St George's Project
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 543982
Email info@stgeorgesproject.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

INSULATION SURVEYOR
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Skinner & Reeves
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 825757
Email john@skinnerandreeves.com

Customer Service, Call Centre

GENERAL INSURANCE AND OUTBOUND SALES
Folkestone
Salary: OTE £16 - £18k+
Closing Date: 27 November
Quoting Job Ref: SVS347/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Domestic

Leafleters
Kent
Salary: TBA
Leafleters Wanted Cash Paid Part-time/ Flexible Hours Call 01342 325 852
To apply/more information: Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01342 325 852
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Cleaners
Kent
Salary: £8 Per Hour
Cleaners Wanted £8 Per Hour Cash Part-time, Daytime Call Dermot 01342 325 852
To apply/more information: Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01342 325 852
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Chamber Person
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Yorke Lodge Guest House Canterbury require CHAMBER PERSON To make beds & clean bathrooms Sunday 8am to noon Tel: 01227 451243
To apply/more information: Yorke Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 451243
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic Cleaner
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 7 December 2009
To apply/more information: Sutton Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 845254
Email harrisst@svs.org.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Technician/ Receptionist
Medway
Salary: £15,225 - £17,750
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0668
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Operations Manager
Tonbridge
Salary: Up to £21,000
Closing Date: Friday, 27th
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 304252
Email jfn@tonbridge-school.org

Maths Teachers
Kent
Salary: £125+ per day
To apply/more information: Britny Goulet Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: K001MATHS
Tel: 01732 373 340
Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

Science Teachers
Kent
Salary: £125+ per day
Enthusiastic and dedicated science teachers needed for full and part-time work all over Kent and Sussex. All applicants must be qualified teachers with a passion for the profession. Our vacancies are suitable for experienced teachers and NQT's; UK or overseas trained teachers. If interested please contact Britny Goulet at britny.goulet@timeplan.net or on 01732 373 340.
To apply/more information: Britny Goulet Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: K001SCIE
Tel: 01732 373 340
Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

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ICT Teachers

Kent
Salary: £120 per day
To apply/more information: Britny Goulet Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: K001ICT
Tel: 01732 373 340
Email britny.goulet @timeplan.net

Early Intervention Project Worker WAVE

Dover
Salary: £17,140
Closing Date: 27 November 2009 at Midday
To apply/more information: Dover Grammar School for Boys
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Community Liaison Officer

Medway
Salary: £19,621- £26,276
Closing Date: 15th December 2009
To apply/more information: Miers Court Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 388943
Email patts004@medway.org.uk

Estate Agency, Property

Senior Lettings Negotiator

Rochester
Salary: £13K - £15K
Closing Date: 30 November 2009
To apply/more information: Belvior Lettings
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Order Pickers/ warehouse staff

Kent
Salary: £5.80-£7/hr
Order Pickers/warehouse staff, various locations and shifts for IMMEDIATE START!! Must have own transport!!! £5.80-£7/hr. Please call Jenny at Berry Recruitment on 01622 609570
To apply/more information: Berry Recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 609570
Email jenny.franklin@ berryrecruitment.co.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

MI Analyst

Folkestone
Salary: c£25,000
visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Web Developer

Folkestone
Salary: c£22,000
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Email Template Builer

Folkestone
Salary: c£18,000
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Infrastructure Architect

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Program Manager

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Integration Architect

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
To apply/more information: Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism,Travel

Assistant Golf Professional

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Assistant Golf Professional and Golf Retailer required for busy private club with floodlit driving range. Duties include teaching, playing, together with some shop work. Experience preferred but not essential as full training can be given to the right person. Applicants should be outgoing, enthusiastic and pro-active. Apply: Paul Everard and Danny Maude, Canterbury Golf Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1TW. Tel: 01227 462865 Email: paul.everard@foremostgolf.com
To apply/more information: Canterbury Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 462865
Email paul.everard@foremostgolf.com

Tourist Officer

Deal
Salary: £7.34 per hour
Closing Date: Thursday 26th November 2009
Deal Town Council is seeking a Tourist Officer to be based at the Visitor Information Centre in Deal. 21 hours per week to include Saturday working. Rate of pay £7.34 per hour. Further details and an application form are available from: Linda Dykes, Town Clerk, Deal Town Council. Tel: 01304 361999 or e-mail deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk
Closing Date: 12 (noon) on Thursday 26th November 2009.
To apply/more information: Deal Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 361999
Email deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Comminity Care Workers

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
We require part time or full time Comminity Care Workers for Ashford and the Marsh. Applicants must have their own vehicle. We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends. We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates. Fax No. 01797 367493
To apply/more information: Country Folk Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01797 361889
Email countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday Night Carer

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
BETHANY LODGE CARE HOME Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch Requires A Saturday Night Carer, 8pm – 8am To join our team of professionals caring for young people with disabilities Rewarding and friendly environment, Enhanced rates for NVQ Tel: 01303 872289 for more information And application form All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information: Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

Registered Nurse

Romney Marsh
Salary: £146.90 per night
Bethany Lodge, Dymchurch Requires. Registered Nurse Friday Night duty To join our team in caring for 24 physically disabled adults. £146.90 per night 8pm to 8am Please tel: 01303 872289 for further details and application form.
To apply/more information: Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARERS

Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email meridiancbury@aol.com

Experienced HCA's

Dover
Salary: £7.40 – £12.00 per hour
To apply/more information: Singleton Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 666768
Email singletonghome@ madasafish.com

Care Assistants

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Old Rectory (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 874470
Email oldrec@btconnect.com

SELF-EMPLOYED HOMECARE SUPPORT WORKERS

Tonbridge
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard@terrablu.co.uk

Weekend Carers

Kent
Salary: £7.25 to £9.50 per/hr
To apply/more information: Ashton Macey Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 523477
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People

Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

Direct Sales Agents

Kent
Salary: £75k OTE
gary.weston@mkdh.co.uk Car and telephone essential. www.moben.co.uk
To apply/more information: Homeform Group Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01708 864684
Email gary.weston@mkdh.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

09/03436/HOUSE Halfway Cottage Horsmonden Road, Brenchley
- Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new larger outbuilding (LB)

09/03366/FULMJ Knoxbridge Farm Knoxbridge, Frittenden
- Demolition of seven existing poultry sheds, erection of three replacement poultry sheds, manure store and extension of packing shed. One existing poultry building to be converted into a store (MAJOR)

09/03418/HOUSE St Cuthberts Lodge Stream Lane, Hawkhurst
- Extensions, alterations and partial demolition (CA)

09/03394/HOUSE 5 The Slade Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst
- Construction of a garden office (CA)

09/03274/FUL 21 Vale Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use from A2 to A3 Restaurants & Cafes (Retrospective) (CA)

09/03409/FUL The Cumberland 3 Cumberland Walk, Pantiles & St Marks
- Retrospective retention of electricity generator and enclosure (LB) (CA)

09/03449/FULMJ Park House & Park Lodge Kingswood Road, Park
- Removal of Condition (16) of planning permission TW/08/00111 - Scheme for removal of close-boarded fence along the northern boundary of site and its replacement with railings (MAJOR)

09/03406/OUTMJ Spire Tunbridge Wells Hospital Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst
- Outline (Layout not reserved) - Extensions and alterations to existing hospital and provision of 41 net additional parking spaces (MAJOR) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 20 November 2009

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

PUBLIC NOTICE (Chattels)

Mr/Mrs Trott D C formerly of Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5LU or anyone knowing his/her/their current whereabouts are requested to contact Mann Countrywide, 88 High Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1AX Tel 01634 851 008 within 7 days of the date of this notice.

VICTOR CHARLES ERNEST TROWELL (deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 53 Old Road, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 5PW who died on 5th June 2009 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Solicitors on or before 31st January 2010, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ROBINSON & KINRADE,
69 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4LH

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL
North Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL
www.svs.org.uk

SVS

DOMESTIC CLEANER

Required to work Monday to Friday for 35 hours per week, with 4 weeks paid holiday plus bank holidays. Previous cleaning experience desirable. Further details may be requested from Stuart Harris, Estates Bursar: telephone 01622 845254 or email: harrisst@svs.org.uk

Closing date for applications: **7th December, 2009**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mr Foster, Water Works Cottage, New Wharf Road, Tonbridge to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Oxon Hoath, Oxon Hoath Road, Hadlow**
Applicant: **Owen Tindle**
Name of Premises: **Ramada Jarvis Tunbridge Wells Hotel, Pembury**
Applicant: **Denise Vas**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/02664/FL – Former Holborough Quarry And Adjoining Land Parcel Holborough Road Snodland Kent – Mr Julian Curry is applying for revised details of Masterplan submitted pursuant to condition 4 of TM/01/02746/OAEA (Outline Application for the formation of new development platforms and residential development; provision of reserve primary school site, highway, pedestrian and cycle access, open space and landscaping). Reason: HA CA

TM/09/02238/FL – Herrag Cottage 3 And 4 School Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling Kent ME19 5EH – Mr And Mrs Livsey are applying for single storey timber outbuilding to replace existing for the storage of equipment to tending paddock and vegetable patch. Reason: CA

TM/09/02729/FL – Redundant Hop Picking Shed Hermitage Farm Danns Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent – Trustees Of The E.G.W. Boscawen 1986 Settlement are applying for change of use from redundant agricultural building to B1 light industrial (resubmission of TM/08/03251/FL). Reason: PROW

TM/09/02684/LB – Three Post Boys High Street Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7AA – Mr And Mrs Fraser are applying for Listed Building Application: Replacement of attic floor and ceiling below. Reason: LB CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
PROW	Application affects a Public Right of Way
HA	Site is over 1ha.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 13 December 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
22 November 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A2042 FAVERSHAM ROAD, KENNINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Pedestrian Crossing installation works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on A2042 Faversham Road, Kennington between Trinity Road and Ulley Road on 23 November 2009 for an estimated period of four nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Trinity Road, Fougeres Way, Simone Weil Avenue and Canterbury Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 23 November 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CROWBRIDGE ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Crowbridge Road, Ashford as detailed below, on or after 25 November 2009 for an estimated period of 7 working weeks or until the works are complete.

Schedule:

Road Name:	**Crowbridge Road**
Extent:	Approximately 40 metres north of Boys Hall Bridge to the junction with Swallowfields
Dates:	25 November 2009 for up to three weeks
Diversion:	Crowbridge Road, Gladstone Road, Mead Road, Canterbury Road and Crowbridge Link

Road Name:	**Crowbridge Road**
Extent:	between the junctions with Swallowfields and Mead Road
Dates:	14 December 2009 for up to 4 working weeks. Work is due to stop between 18 December and 4 January with the road re-opened between these dates.
Diversion:	Mead Road, Canterbury Road, Crowbridge Link and Crowbridge Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic various roads Gravesham as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the above restriction will be via: as below schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

Schedule:

Road Name:	**St Johns Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	For the whole length
Dates:	25th November 2009 for 3 days between 08.00 – 17.00 hours
Diversion:	Prospect Grove, Camel Road, Russel Road and Norfolk Road for north bound traffic. Then its Norfolk Road, Albion Terrace, Albion Road, Milton Road and Prospect Grove for south bound traffic.

Road Name:	**Springhead Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	From its junction with London Road to Thames Way
Dates:	30th November 2009 for 4 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours
Diversion:	Springhead Road, Thames Way, Vale Road, Dover Road and London Road.

Road Name:	**Wrotham Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	From its junction with Old Road West to Stone Street
Dates:	4th January 2010 for 8 nights between 19.00 – 05.00 hours
Diversion:	Stone Street, Clive Road, Barrack Row, Darnley Road, Old Road West, Wrotham Road for southbound traffic. Then its Wrotham Road, Old Road West, Windmill Street for north bound traffic.

Road Name:	**Wrotham Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	From its junction with Old Road West to The Fairway
Dates:	4th January 2010 for 8 nights between 19.00 – 05.00 hours
Diversion:	Wrotham Road, Coldharbour Road, Earl Road, Perry Street, Pelham Road and Old Road west

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
LOWER ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Road, Northfleet between its junctions with Galley Hill Road and Manor Way.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 29th November 2009 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate strengthening works

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
GREEN LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Green Lane, Meopham between its junctions with A227 Wrotham Road to Norwood Lane.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days between 08.00 – 17.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Norwood Lane and A227 Norwood Lane.

For access to Camer Park - A227 Wrotham Road, The Street, Foxendown Lane and Camer Park Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate strengthening surfacing scheme

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WHITEPOST LANE, CULVERSTONE GREEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Whitepost Lane, Culverstone Green between its junctions with Harvel Road to A227 Wrotham Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A227 Wrotham / Gravesend Road and Harvel Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate pre patching, ditching, kerbing and gulley clearance works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LUGHORSE LANE, YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lughorse Lane, Yalding outside Horseshoe Cottage on or after Tuesday 8th December 2009 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is for eastbound traffic via B210 Yalding Hill, Vicarage Road, West Street, Lughorse Lane and for westbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new water connection. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Amelia Fauklin of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873084.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SCRAGGED OAK ROAD, DETLING) (REAR OF DETLING COUNTY SHOWGROUND) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2007 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Scragged Oak Road , Detling, from junction Cox Street south to junction Broader Lane on or after Tuesday 8th December 2009 when required for a period of up to 1 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for traffic via Broader Lane , Hermitage Lane , Scragged Oak Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for tree cutting and aerial renewal in the area. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Tracey Zeal of A Plant Lux Traffic Control on 08700500792.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PARK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Park Lane, Sevenoaks between its junctions with Hollybush Lane to Seal Hollow Road.

The Order will become effective on 7th December 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 8th December 2009 and last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hollybush Lane, Bayham Road, Serpentine Road, Bayham Road and Seal Hollow Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
MILL LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mill Lane, Sevenoaks between Weavers Lane outside number 38.

The Order will become effective on 7th December 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Weavers Lane, Greatness Lane, A25 Seal Road and Mill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
MILL LANE, UNDERRIVER (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mill Lane, Underriver betweens its Carters Hill and Underriver House Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 14 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Underriver House Road and Carters Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BYROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham north of Pennis Lane.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 26th November 2009 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Fawham Road, Main Road, Longfield, Hartley Road, Ash Road, Hartley Chaplewood Road, Ash Road, Ash, The Street, South Ash Road, Ash Lane, Stanstead Lane, A20 London Road, Fawkham Road, Brands Hatch Road and Valley Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Shepway from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 9 December 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column three of the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

Schedule:

Road Name:	**Castle Hill Avenue**
Extent:	Junction with Sandgate roundabout
Dates:	9th and 10th December 2009 between 19:00 and 05:00
Diversion:	Eastbound: Earls Avenue, Bouverie Road West, Cheriton Gardens, Middleburg Square, Cheriton Road, Middleburg Square and Cheriton Place.
Westbound:	The Leas, Clifton Crescent, Earls Avenue

Road Name:	**Clifton Gardens, Folkestone**
Extent:	Entire Length
Dates:	9th & 10th December 2009 between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Shepway) (Prohibition and Restriction of traffic Movements) Consolidation Order 2004 Schedule 6, no.24 is temporarily suspended

Road Name:	**Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone**
Extent:	Entire Length
Dates:	9th & 10th December 2009 between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Shepway) (Prohibition and Restriction of traffic Movements) Consolidation Order 2004 Schedule 6, no.50 is temporarily suspended

Road Name:	**Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone**
Extent:	Between Sandgate Road and Bouverie Road West
Dates:	9th & 10th December 2009 between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Shepway) (Prohibition and Restriction of traffic Movements) Consolidation Order 2004 Schedule 6, no.s 15 and 16 are temporarily suspended

Road Name:	**Castle Road, Hythe**
Extent:	Between Tanners Hill and Hillcrest Road
Dates:	10th December for five nights 2009 between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	School Road, Brockhill Road and Hillcrest Road

Road Name:	**Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone**
Extent:	Between Shearway Road and Tile Kiln Lane
Dates:	15th December 2009 for three nights between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	Cherry Garden Avenue, Cheriton Road, Cherry Garden Avenue and Cherry Garden Lane

Road Name:	**Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone**
Extent:	Between Cherry Garden Lane and Ashley Avenue
Dates:	15th December 2009 for three nights between 19:00 & 05:00
Diversion:	Ashley Avenue, Cheriton Road, Cherry Garden Avenue and Cherry Garden Lane

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HOPE LANE, ST MARY IN THE MARSH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the reconstruction of Paternosterford Bridge, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Hope Lane, St Mary in the Marsh, either side of Paternosterford Bridge, on or after 8 December 2009. This is initially for an estimated period of 2 weeks for pre-construction testing. There will be a subsequent closure scheduled for mid-February 2010 for the actual bridge reconstruction.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cockreed Lane, Ashford Road and the Lane from Ashford Road to the junction with Turnagate Cottage, locally known as a continuation of Five Vents Lane.

This Order will come into force from 8 December 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE BROADWAY, BROADSTAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because resurfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on The Broadway, Broadstairs from the junction with Gladstone Road to the junction with Osborne Road on or after 24 November 2009 for an estimated period of 3 nights or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Broadway, High Street, Queens Road, Ramsgate Road, Bromstone Road & Fairfield Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(RIDING LANE, HILDENBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Riding Lane outside of 1 Gardeners Hope Cottages on or after Monday 7th December 2009 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is for southbound traffic via Hildenborough Road, Underriver House Road, Mill Lane, Vines Lane and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Hutton Construction Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a connection to a mains sewer. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Mr Leigh French on 01279 647333.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Wait for the Evora proves worthwhile

First**Drive**

by **STEVE LOADER**

Lotus**Evora**

LOTUS unveiled its new Evora to the world at the London Motor Show some 15 months ago.

And we had hoped to see it on the roads this summer – but it's here now and definitely worth the wait.

Especially as it does not flatter to deceive like the Europa, which looks glorious on the outside, drives like a Lotus should, but has a cabin so poorly finished that it cannot carry off the 'executive Elise' role it was designed for when launched in 2006.

Though dearer, the Evora is a far better option for those who desire a small and useable supercar wearing what is still one of the most evocative sporting badges.

Kent Lotus dealer Lipscomb couldn't be happier with the newcomer and was only too keen for us to take a First Drive; the franchise at Aylesford, Maidstone, expects to sell 40 Evoras a year, complementing rather than cannibalising existing sales of around 60 Elise and Exige road-going racers.

Prices for the latter pair start at around £25,700.

The Evora operates in a different league financially and comfort-wise, with prices from £47,500 and a relatively lavish interior – the Porsche Cayman being a prime target.

You can even have a 2+2 Evora from £49,875 with a pair of optimistic rear seats.

Specify the two-seater only and this space is given over to a luggage shelf to supplement a boot behind the mid-mounted engine; for those who care about such things, the boot can just about take a set of golf clubs… so I'm told.

That would be an irrelevance to most car nuts though, because this all-new car – conceived in a little more than two years using renowned Lotus IT design skills – marks a stunning return to the big league.

It recalls the 'big' Lotuses of the 1970s/80s Elite (MkII), Eclat and Esprit series, the last being a genuine supercar that also made an appearance as James Bond's car.

Needless to say, the mid-engine, rear-driven Evora is a stunning drive with the 276bhp 3.5-litre V6 Toyota revving enthusiastically behind your ears and giving the car excellent balance.

A crisp short throw gearshift adds to the feel-good factor.

Cornering on rails is a cliché, but comes to mind continually in this car too.

Of course, it helps that it is as low slung as possible in the great tradition of legendary Lotus founder Colin Chapman, but you don't have to be a contortionist to climb in.

The normal 'Great Wall of China' sills of the Elise series have shrunk to manageable proportions and are covered with leather.

Lotus has also proved again that you can have seats that are stylish yet painfully thin to look at, yet feel superbly comfortable.

Where as the leather stitching on the Europa looks like it has been farmed out to a sweat shop aboard a storm-tossed North Sea trawler, the workmanship on the Evora is – and needed to be – of a far higher standard and there is proper carpet and a quality headliner.

The dashboard arrangement is not perfect, but there is nothing to irritate and the details feel well-made too.

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09 09 CHEVROLET MATIZ AUTO PAS 5 DR CD JAZZ BLUE 100 MILES £6495
09 09 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 2000 MILES.....£9995
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5 DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES.....£13995
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09 09 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5 DRAUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 3000 MILES.....£12995
09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 200 MILES.....£10995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES £9995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 3000M.....£7995
09 58 NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE LUXURY 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 1700 MILES.....£8995
08 58 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES.....£11995
08 58 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DR RED MET 5000 MILES....£11995
08 58 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....£13995
08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES £9995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 4000M £7495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 6000 MILES £9995
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-4 STYLE CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 5000 MILES.....£9495
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3 DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES.....£7995
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3 DR AUTO PAS RED 2000 MILES.....£7995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES.....£8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES.....£8995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES.....£7995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR CAFFEE 2000 MILES.....£9995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES.....£8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES.....£8995
08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3 DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES £9495
08 58 TOYOTA AURIS TR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIESEL 5 DR GREY 4000 MILES.....£11995
08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLUE 6000 MILES £9995
08 58 KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET BLUE 8000 MILES.....£9995

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09 09 FORD FOCUS CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES...£17495
08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER 2000 MILES ..£15995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 4000 MILES.....£11995
08 08 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS PACIFIC 2000 MILES..£10995
08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 MILES £13495
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS INFERNO 7000 MILES...£10995
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES £13495
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06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 16000 MILES.....£10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES £10495
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES.....£9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES £10495
06 06 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 2-0 CONVERT AUTO PAS MISTY GREY 39000M £9495

FUSION & FIESTA

07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES.....£7995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 8000 MILES...£8995
07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES...£8495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES.....£6995

FORD FOCUS

08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 MILES.....£11495
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 7000 MILES.....£10495
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 1900 MILES.£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES.....£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS GREEN 5000 MILES.....£8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 M £8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES.....£8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 23000 MILES £8995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES.....£7995
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06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £6995
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06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 18000 ML ..£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MLS.£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE TONIC 16000 MLS £7495
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C DENIM BLUE 28000 MILES £6995

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES.....£9495
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES....£8495

CORSA

08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES.....£8995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR SILVER 4000 MILES.....£9495
07 57 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES.....£9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLUE 2000 MILES.....£8995
07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES.....£7995
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06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5 DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES.....£5495
02 02 CORSA 1-4 COMFORT AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 39000 MILES £3995

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06 06 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES.....£4995

KIA

06 06 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 32000 MILES.....£5495

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08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....£9995
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06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES.....£8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER BLUE 17000 MILES.£10995
07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 MILES.....£10995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES £9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES.....£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES £9495

SUZUKI

06 56 JIMNY JLX PLUS AUTO PAS LEATHER SEATS AIR/C 8000 MILES.....£7995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES £5995
05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES.....£7495

HONDA

06 06 HONDA CR-V EXECUTIVE AUTO PAS SAT NAV LEATHER 19000 MILES...£13995
06 06 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 19000 MILES.....£7995

HYUNDAI

08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES £6995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES.....£6495
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES.....£5995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES.....£5995
07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....£5995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 7000 MILES.....£6995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 16000 MILES ...£6995
06 56 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 9000 MILES...£5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 MILES...£5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES.....£5295

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES.....£9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3 DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 MILES £8995
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES.....£7495
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 15000 MILES.....£9995
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 6000 MILES.....£9995
06 06 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 6000 MILES.....£8495
04 54 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS CHAMPAGNE 6000 MILES.....£7495
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 MILES.....£5995
02 51 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS BLUE 52000 MILES.....£4995
00 W TOYOTA YARIS 1-3 GLS 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 70000 MILES.....£2995

NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES.....£8995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA R 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 2000 MILES.....£9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES.....£8995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 15000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 MILES.....£6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS ICE BLUE 12000 MILES £6995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES £6495
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05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 10000 MILES.....£7495
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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES ..£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 15000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES..£6495
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METRO BLUE 17000 MILES £6495
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07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET RED 17000 MILES.....£6995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIR/C 16000 MILES....£7995
06 56 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET RED AIR/C 15000 MILES.....£6995
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06 56 A CLASS 150 ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR SILVER 13000 MILES..£10995
06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLACK 25000 MILES.....£9995
06 06 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED 6000 MILES £9995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 32000 MILES.....£11995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 28000 MILES.....£11995
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08 57 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO PAS 5DR AIR MISTY GREY 23000 MILES.....£8995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 MILES.....£8495
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03 03 PEUGEOT 206 3 DR VERVE 5 SPEED MANUAL AIR ALLOYS 26000 MILES.£3995

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08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES.....£10495
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08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 10000 MILES.....£10995
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USED CARS

AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	55	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3.995
08	58	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel Silver	4,385	7.995
08	58	Agila Club A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	6,450	8,695
09	09	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9.995
09	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	4,150	8.995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	6,230	9.995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	5,210	9.995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	55	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3.995
08	58	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel Silver	4,385	7.995
08	58	Agila Club A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	6,450	8,695
09	09	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9.995
09	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	4,150	8.995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	6,230	9.995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	5,210	9.995

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Corsa Design	1.4	5	Silver lightening	39,050	6.195
07	57	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Air blue	21,575	7,495
07	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	25800	8,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	8,250
08	58	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	5	Silver lightening	12775	9,495
08	58	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3	3	Metro blue	6,425	9,795
09	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Metro blue	11,390	8,995
08	58	New Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	8,995
08	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Black sapphire	7,070	9,295
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	4,110	9,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	2,940	9,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/C	1.3	3	Black sapphire	9,670	10,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	3	Flame red	9,270	9,995
09	09	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	6,520	9,995
09	09	Corsa Design In Touch	1.2	3	Black sapphire	3,380	9,495

INSIGNIA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	4,060	19,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	12,000	16,995
09	09	Insignia Elite CDTi Auto (160)	1.9D	4	Black sapphire	8,250	22995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	5,200	17,495

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
03	53*	Meriva Enjoy	1.6	5	Star silver	86,875	3,495
05	05	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Spearmint silver	54,350	6,995
08	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	9,995
09	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	8,750	10,695

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9D	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	8,995
06	56	Vectra Exclusiv	1.8	5	Star silver	26,250	6,995
08	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	12,700	10,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
04	54*	Zafira Design DTi	2.0D	5	Prestige blue	67,850	5,495
05	05*	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	66,000	7,995
06	56	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Metro blue	40,250	7,995
06	56	Zafira Club Auto	1.8	5	Silver lightening	12,120	8,995
09	09	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,780	17,995

OTHER MAKES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	55*	Ford Focus Zetec	1.6	5	Metallic grey	53,050	6,795
05	55	Citroen C2 design	1.1	3	Blue	30450	4,495

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	57	Vectra CDTi Elite (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	41,000	9,995
08	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	12,000	9,995
06	56	Signum Elite Auto CDTi	1.9D	5	Misty grey	48,000	8,995
08	57	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	15,000	12,995
08	58	Astra Sri Sports hatch CDTi 150ps	1.9D	3	Power red	16,000	13,495
08	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Flame red	12,000	10,495
07	57	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	34,900	8,995

All mileages are approximate, as vehicles are still in use at the present time

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Matthew Beech

Skoda reveals its luxury load lugger

NOT content after shocking prestige marques with its all-new cut-price director's car, the latest Superb, Skoda will offer it as an estate too.

Arriving early next year, the Superb 'wagon' will offer yet more load capacity for anyone needing more than the clever boot cum tailgate arrangement of the original car, launched late last year.

Billed as the "most luxurious estate car yet to wear the Skoda badge" it also has a claimed best-in-class load volume of up to 1,865 litres or 633 with the rear seats up.

Three petrol and three diesel engines are available plus manual and VW group twin-clutch DSG transmissions.

Options include a keyless entry and ignition system, Park Assist – allowing the car to parallel park automatically – electronic boot opening and panoramic sunroof.

No prices have been released yet, but the Superb hatchback starts at £15,325 so we can expect the estate to start at around £1,000-1,500 more.

Citroën goes into power juggling act

CITROËN has maintained an increasingly familiar motor industry theme by swapping engines in its C5 family car line-up for greener yet more powerful units.

The apparently contradictory move brings a new 155bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit – co-developed with BMW – to replace the 143bhp 2.0 unit, a new 160bhp 2.0-litre diesel replaces one of 140bhp and a 173bhp 2.2 unit.

The new petrol engine not only gets eight per cent more power than its predecessor, but averages around 18 per cent better fuel consumption and 16 per cent lower CO2 emissions (now 167g/km) cutting road tax from £215 to £175.

The new 2.0-litre diesel is 14 per cent more powerful, three per cent better on fuel and emissions have fallen from 153g/km to 147g/km, with road tax down from £150 to £125.

Volvo knows it must do better

CRUNCH time for Volvo comes with the launch of an all-new S60 next year.

The Ford-owned Swedish marque is currently in the limelight with its highly effective economical and low-emission DRIVe versions of mainstream models.

But real profitability would come from really attacking the compact executive car sector dominated by the Germans with the Audi A4, BMW 3-Series and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

The current S60 remains elegant, but its so-so chassis is increasingly outclassed by the German trio and even mainstream rivals like the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Insignia.

The newly unveiled S60 replacement looks the part, but Volvo boss Stephen Odell said it will offer more.

"Customers in this segment want emotional appeal, sporty design and dynamic driving properties," he said.

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LOTUS

Astra set for launch time award boost?

by STEVELOADER

BRITISH workers building the stunning new Vauxhall Astra launched next month are not out of the woods yet.

General Motors has reversed a decision to sell its European arm, comprising two Vauxhall UK plants and several Opel sites across the Continent, but the loss-making US giant needs economies as much as the proposed takeover consortium wanted them.

The Astra plant at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside can at least be excited by some other news though; their car is short-listed for 2010 European Car of the Year, following up the bigger Insignia's victory last year.

Only Fiat has ever pulled off consecutive wins in this prestigious and sales-enhancing contest.

The Insignia has gone on to become the UK's biggest seller in its market sector this year.

The sixth generation Astra is one of just seven finalists – the winner will be announced on 30 November.

Based on a recent first drive of the car, we would give it our vote although it faces tough opposition, notably the classy little VW Polo supermini, the Toyota IQ city car – which really ought to win for innovation and packaging – and the Mercedes-Benz E-Class, which marks a real return to form for the German brand.

Also in the hunt are the Peugeot 3008, Citroën C3 Picasso and Skoda Yeti.

The Astra could have the edge across most areas though. For a start it looks good, echoing slick styling that helped the Insignia to win sales and awards.

Despite racy low-slung lines though, the Astra is thoughtfully arranged and fitted out; designers have not forgotten the car must please in the demanding family hatchback sector, accounting for 23 per cent of UK car registrations, and including formidable opponents like the Ford Focus and VW Golf.

It also drives as well as it looks and may even be best in class, especially as a re-think of the rear chassis has given it that rare gift – nimble handling with a good ride quality too.

A shrewd range of engines includes an impressive all-new 140PS (138bhp) 1.4-litre turbo petrol unit, replacing the conventional 1.8 unblown unit of the current car.

This is typical of a new breed of diesel-rivalling lightweight petrol units with more low-down urge, better economy and lower emissions.

This engine certainly sits well here and if you want more petrol power there is also a 180PS 1.6-litre Turbo – the most powerful unit in the line-up for now.

Astra prices start at £15,675.

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04 04 IVECO CARGO 75E17 TIPPER 14ft day cab, dual pass seat, EW, 77,600km

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06 56 Iveco Stralis AT190S27P 4x2 30ft chassis cab, 175,000 km
04 04 Iveco Cargo 180E24 26ft platform day cab, 133,600km
04 04 Iveco Cargo 75E17 14ft tipper day cab, 77,600 km
05 05 Iveco Cargo 75E17 20ft platform day cab, 149,000km
06 06 Iveco Cargo 75E17 20ft sleeper box, rear roller shutter, 194,080km
08 58 Iveco Cargo 75E16 20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 12,968km
07 07 Iveco Cargo 75E17 20ft box column t/lift, 70,000km
06 56 Iveco Cargo 75E17 20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 70,893km

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07 07 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB 3300 w/base, 35,662 miles
05 05 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB 3300 w/base, 59,000 miles
07 07 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB 3300 w/base, 50,661 miles
04 54 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van XLWB 3950 w/base, 37,500 miles
08 08 Fiat Ducato 30 Van SWB 100MJT 2.2lt, 24,037 miles
07 07 Fiat Ducato 30 Van SWB 100MJT 2.2lt, 19,418 miles
09 58 Fiat Ducato 35 Van LWB 120MJT H/R, 400 miles

LIGHT COMMERCIALS
07 56 Fiat Scudo 1.9D Van LWB twin side load doors, 37,384 miles
06 06 Fiat Doblo SX Van 1.9MJT twin side load doors, 57,065 miles

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*ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND OFFERS APPLY TO RETAIL SALES OF QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED AND REGISTERED 01/10/09–31/12/09 AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY. BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST. PRICES SHOWN INCLUDE THE DEDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATE SCRAPPAGE ALLOWANCE FROM THE MANUFACTURER'S ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES. FROM PRICES SHOWN: CITROËN C2 VT 1.1I 8V 61HP £6845 AND NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO VT 1.4 16V VTI 95HP £9795. †GUARANTEED £2000 SCRAPPAGE ALLOWANCE (£1000 CITROËN UK SCRAPPAGE ALLOWANCE CASHBACK (£2000 FOR ALL C2 MODELS) AND £1000 GOVERNMENT SCRAPPAGE SUBSIDY) FOR YOUR OLD CAR WILL APPLY TO CUSTOMERS TRADING IN A QUALIFYING VEHICLE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME, FIRST REGISTERED ON OR BEFORE 29/02/00 AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF A QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLE. FOR FULL SCRAPPAGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT WWW.CITROEN.CO.UK. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. ΔCOMBINED CYCLE. ♦SUBJECT TO THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS BY THE FIA.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES(RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: CITROËN C2 1.6I 16V 125HP VTS 9.3/30.4, 5.4/52.3, 6.9/40.9, 163. LOWEST: CITROËN C2 1.4HDI 8V 70HP VTR 5.3/53.3, 3.7/76.3, 4.3/65.7, 113.

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C2

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06 06 1.1i SX 3dr Hatch, Wicked Red, 18,677m..... £5,995

05 55 1.4 HDi Design Diesel 3dr Hatch, Poseidon Blue, 52,693m..... £5,995

C3

03 53 1.4i LX 5dr Hatch, Tuscan Blue, 60,569m..... £3,995

04 54 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Arctic Steel,18,600m..... £4,995

05 55 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch, Arctic Steel, 34,200m £5,995

05 05 1.4 HDi Exclusive 5dr Hatch, Oriental Blue, 39,645m..... £6,995

05 55 1.6 HDi SX 5dr Diesel Hatch, Tuscan Blue, 41,715m..... £7,295

07 07 1.4 HDi Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Black, 32,147m..... £7,495

06 06 1.6i SX 5dr Hatch Auto, Arctic Steel, 15,859m..... £7,495

08 08 1.4 HDi Cachet 5dr Hatch, Spec Edition, Passion Red, 37,699m. £8,795

C3 Picasso

09 09 1.4 Picasso 1.4 VTi VTR+ 5dr Estate, Thorium Grey, 4,047m... £10,995

C4

06 56 1.6 HDi Cool 5dr Hatch, Spec Edition, Thorium Grey, 50,350m.... £7,795

07 07 1.6 HDi SX 5dr Hatch Auto, Spec Edition, Arctic Steel, 12,020m.. £7,995

06 06 1.6 SX 5dr Hatch Auto, Arctic Steel, 20,396m.....£7,995

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07 07 1.8 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Estate, Tivoli Blue, 13,754m..... £10,995

08 08 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Diesel Hatch, Icelandic Grey, 21,650m..... £10,995

08 58 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr, Diesel Hatch, Wicked Red 16,669m..... £11,495

08 58 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Diesel Hatch, Arctic Steel, 11,165m..... £11,495

09 09 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 3dr Diesel Coupe, Polar White, 10,000m..... £12,495

08 58 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Diesel Hatch, Thirium Grey, 5,250m..... £12,495

08 08 2.0 HDi Exclusive 5dr Diesel Hatch, Black, 10,469m £12,495

C4 Picasso

07 07 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Grand Estate, Icare, 24,850m.....£13,795

08 58 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Grand Estate, Iron Grey, 15,448m..... £14,995

Xsara Picasso

05 05 1.8i Desire Estate, Sahara Gold, 46,007m..... £6,495

06 56 1.6i Exclusive Estate, Arctic Steel, 35,300m..... £7,295

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C5

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09 58 1.4i X Nemo Patrol, White, 3,000m.....£6,000+ VAT

Enterprise

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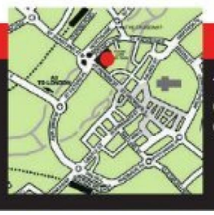

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08 08 IBIZA 1.4 TDi Ecomotive 3dr, Grey, air con, 33,650m	£7,995

LEON

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08 58 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5dr, Black Magic, climate, fog lights, 7,100m	£14,895
09 09 LEON 2.0 TDi FR, Candy White, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, 7,500m	£16,495
09 58 LEON 2.0 T FSi CUPRA 5dr, Speed Blue, Black Cupra interior, 6,650m	£17,295

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08 58 ALTEA XL 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr MPV, Silver, climate control, 6,611m	£12,895
08 58 ALTEA Freetrack 4 2.0 TDi 5dr MPV, Silver, cloth/leather,6,900m	£12,995
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Philosophical Mazda is spearheading fleet drive

KENT-based Mazda UK is weathering the recession better than most car firms and making inroads into the fleet and company sectors.

Registrations across that market are down 27 per cent, but the Japanese brand's Dartford headquarters says it has bucked the trend with a fall of less than 11 per cent.

It also claims its fleet order book is up 19 per cent against an 11 per cent decline across the sector.

The company says this success is due to decent specifications, sensible pricing and modest recession-led rises compared with big hikes by some rivals, plus attention to Benefit in Kind and road taxation through a 'lighter and lower' design philosophy in mainstream models: the Mazda2 supermini, Mazda3 family hatch and Mazda6 family/Mondeo Class car.

By boosting aerodynamics, saving weight and cutting engine emissions and fuel consumption, Mazda has achieved range-wide tax and eco-savings that other manufacturers tend to charge extra for through specially branded green models.

One of the marque's best examples is the latest Mazda3 and particularly the tax-beating 1.6 diesel model tested here and costing from £15,760 – the overall Mazda3 range starts from £13,500 and includes a sharply styled four-door saloon version too.

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Mazda3

The 1.6 diesel can average more than 60mpg – without needing a six-speed gearbox – and also incurs the lowest payable road tax of £35 a year.

And because a brand that markets itself with a 'Zoom-Zoom' label could not escape with anything less, it also drives well.

Where some diesel hatchbacks can feel a bit lumpy compared with their petrol sisters, the inherent lightness of the '3' means the heftier

All models within the Mazda range come with 3 years' manufacturer warranty, 3 years' roadside assistance and 7 days' drive away insurance.

To take a test drive contact us at:
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range (excluding all-new Mazda3 MPS): Urban 26.7 (10.6) – 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8) – 74.3 (3.8), Combined 37.2 (7.6) – 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 175 – 119.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 October 2009 and 31 December 2009. †0% finance available on all all-new Mazda3 models, excluding all-new Mazda3 MPS. °Deposit shown is higher than the minimum. A lower deposit will increase the amount of repayments. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHI 1SR. Model shown: All-new Mazda3 1.6 5dr Sport. OTR price £16,685 . Model shown features optional metallic paint (£385). On the road price includes 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print.

diesel engine makes little difference to the nimbleness of the car. With a typically crisp Mazda gearshift and direct steering plus a more than adequate 109bhp under the bonnet, this is a company or private buy that is easy to live with in all situations.

It cannot quite match the latest VW Golf for refinement, but remember this is a more cost-effective option, needing to be judged more against the ubiquitous Ford Focus and Mark VI Vauxhall Astra arriving next month.

I also like the fact that Mazda's drive for better aerodynamics has created a far better looking car than its rather frumpy predecessor.

The front end does look a bit fussy on closer inspection, but wears a 'happier' face while the side profile of the car is leaner and more muscular.

The cabin echoes the impressive Mazda6 in layout, style and quality, making you wonder whether Mazda has risked cannibalising sales of the car's big brother. Until, that is, you realise that rear legroom is only average for the family hatchback sector, let alone challenging that found in the next one up.

Having driven most engines in the line-up earlier in the year, test driving the well-equipped TS2 version of the 'cooking' diesel confirmed it as the go to model for most buyers. By comparison, the 105bhp 1.6-litre petrol needs a lot of gearshifting to make progress, though still a rewarding drive.

For those who like the look of the '3', but crave more thrills, Mazda has also just launched the MPS hot hatch version (£21,500).

Arriving within months of the mainstream line-up – unlike last time where buyers waited several years for the MPS – this 257bhp turbocharged 2.3-litre petrol model can hit 62mph in just 6.1seconds.

With a sensitive bodykit to complement the car's inherent good looks, this is a glamour car that can only boost the growing overall appeal of Mazda's mid-range star.

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DrivingPortfolio

MAZDA3 1.6 TS2 DIESEL 5-DR £16,960

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How Green?	★★★★
Road tax	£35/year
Best rival	Ford Focus

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the car's slightly cramped rear legroom which is shown up by some of its key rivals

NOT SURE: Mazda brand is on the radar of many car buyers yet – but it really should be

REALLY LIKE: the amalgamation of style, driving pleasure and real world economics

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Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

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09/59	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Active 5dr** H/B C.D, A/C, E/Front Windows Choice of Colours Del Miles	£13,505	£2510	£10,995
09/59	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Active 3dr** H/B C.D, A/C, E/Front Windows Slar silver Del Miles	£12,755	£2760	£9,995
09/09	**Corsa 1.2 Life A/C 5dr** H/B C.D, Remote CDL, ABS, airbags, Air con Choice of Colours			£8,395
09/59	**Insignia 1.8 Exclusive 5dr** H/B Plus Pack C.D, A/C, Alloy wheels, Front Fog Lights Silver Del Miles	£18,460	£3965	£14,495
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08/58	**Astra 1.8 Design** Twin Top C.D, MP3, ABS, Alloys, A/C, Sports Seats, Part Leather Star Silver Under 17K			£13,595
09/05	**Astra 1.6 Breeze 5dr** H/B C.D, ABS, Alloys, A/C Silver Lightning Under 41K			£5,995
08/08	**Astra 1.8 Sri Sport Hatch** C.D, A/C, ABS, E/Windows, sports seats Black Sapphire Under 27K			£10,795
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09/58	**Vectra 1.9 120PS SRI 5dr** H/B C.D, A/C, E/Windows, Alloys Black Sapphire Under 16K			£10,495
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09/58	**Insignia 2.0 SE CDTI 160PS 5dr** H/B Part Leather, Climate, Alloys, to much spec to list please call Soverign Silver Under 12K			£16,495
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		LIST PRICE	SAVE	NOW
09/09	**Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 VCDi LTX Auto** Leather interior, Bluetooth Handsfree Kit, Lima Black Tinted windows, 6 Disc CD and MP3 Connection, On Demand 4X4, Cruis Control, Auto Lights, Rain Sensitive Wipers, 7 Seats, 20" Alloy wheels Dark Denim Grey List	£28,840	£7,845	£20,995
08/58	**Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr** H/B C.D, MP3, A/C, Electric windows, Alloys, front fog lights Silver Under 11K			£6,495
09/09	**Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr** H/B C.D, MP3, A/C, Electric windows, Alloys, front fog lights Silver Demo			£6,995
09/09	**Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr** H/B Auto C.D, MP3, A/C, Electric windows, Alloys, front fog lights Yellow Under 5K			£7,495
09/09	**Aveo 1.2 S 3dr** H/B C.D, MP3, Electric Front windows, A/C Silver Under 3K			£5,795
09/09	**Aveo 1.2 LS 5dr** H/B C.D, MP3, Electric Front and rear windows, A/C Blue Demo			£6,995
09/09	**Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr** H/B C.D Electric Front windows PAS A/C Silver Demo			£5,995
05/55	**Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr** H/B C.D Electric Front windows PAS JAZZ BLUE UNDER 32K			£3,995

Other Makes Selection

05/55	**Ford Fiesta Style 5dr** H/B C.D, A/C, Remote CDL, Automatic Red Under 34K	£4,995
09/05	**Renault Clio Extreme** C.D, A/C, Remote CDL Silver Under 26K	£4,795

09 59 Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 Active 5dr MPV

Black, Delivery Miles List Price £19,430

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05 05 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Breeze 5dr

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available from just £13,090

59 PLATE Brand New Skoda Octavia L&K 2.0 TDi Auto

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		List Price	SAVE	NOW
09 59	Skoda Fabia 2 Htp 12V 1.2 5 Door Estate Finished In Rosso Red With Grey Interior With under 100 miles,	£11,300,	£1,505	£9,795
08 58	Skoda Fabia 3 Tdi 105 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Titanium Metallic Grey With Black Interior With under 11000 miles.	£13,565,	£3,670	£9,895
09 59	Skoda Fabia Greenline 1.4 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Cloth Interior With under 900 miles.	£12,633,	£1,838	£10,795
09 59	Skoda Fabia Greenline 1.4 5 Door Hatchback Finished In With Grey Interior With under 1900 miles.	£12,465,	£1,470	£10,995
09 59	Skoda Fabia Sport 16V 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Sprint Yellow With Black Interior With under 1800 miles.	£12,748,	£1,753	£10,995
09 59	Skoda Roomster 2 16V 105 A 1.6 Mpv Finished In Blue With Grey Interior With under 600 miles.	£13,470,	£2,475	£10,995
09 09	Skoda Roomster 2 16V 105 A 1.6 Mpv Finished In Blue With Black Interior With under 3300 miles.	£13,248,	£1,753	£11,495
09 09	Skoda Roomster Scout Tdi 1.9 Mpv Finished In Blue With Black Interior With under 100 miles.	£15,283,	£3,033	£12,250
09 59	Skoda Octavia S Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In White With Black Interior With under 100 miles.	£14,213,	£1,418	£12,795
09 59	Skoda Octavia Greenline Tdi Cr 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Grey Interior With under 2200 miles.	£16,499,	£2,249	£14,250
09 59	Skoda Octavia Elegance Tdi Cr 1.6 Estate With Grey Interior With under 4300 miles.	£16,874,	£1,879	£14,995
09 59	Skoda Octavia Elegance Tdi Pd A 2.0 5 Door Estate Finished In Green With Black Interior With under 700 miles.	£20,108,	£2,613	£17,495
09 09	Skoda Superb Se Crtdi 2.0 Saloon Finished In Red With Black Interior With under 2000 miles.	£20,243,	£3,248	£16,995
09 09	Skoda Superb Elegance Crtdi A 2.0 Saloon Finished In Brown With Cream Interior With under 100 miles.	£26,023,	£4,028	£21,995
09 59	Skoda Superb Elegance Crtdi A 2.0 Saloon Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 2700 miles.	£25,505,	£3,055	£22,450

Skoda Fabia – Used Car & Demo Stock

07 57	Skoda Fabia Ambiente 12V Htp 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior	£5,995
08 08	Skoda Fabia 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 13700 miles	£6,795
07 57	Skoda Fabia Ambiente 12V Htp 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Grey Interior	£6,995

Skoda Fabia – Used Car & Demo Stock

08 58	Skoda Fabia 85Bhp 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Grey Interior With under 12100 miles	£8,495
08 08	Skoda Fabia Sport 1.5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 3900 miles	£8,495
08 08	Skoda Fabia 3 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In With Grey Interior With under 11500 miles	£8,995
07 57	Skoda Fabia 3 105 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior	£8,995
09 58	Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 5 Door Estate Finished In Blue With Grey Interior With under 6100 miles	£9,495

Skoda Roomster – Used Car & Demo Stock

08 08	Skoda Roomster 1 1.4Pd Mpv Finished In With Blue Interior With under 7100 miles.	£8,295
08 08	Skoda Roomster 2 16V 85 1.4 Mpv Finished In Flamenco Red With Black Interior	£8,595
07 07	Skoda Roomster 3 Tdi 105 1.9 Mpv Finished In Flamenco Red With Grey Interior	£8,995

Skoda Octavia – Used Car & Demo Stock

07 07	Skoda Octavia Ambiente Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Diamond Silver With Grey Interior	£8,995
06 56	Skoda Octavia Vrs 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Race Blue With Black Interior	£9,995
08 08	Skoda Octavia 1.9Tdi 5 Door Estate Finished In Grey With Black Interior	£10,295
07 07	Skoda Octavia Ele 2 DT 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Highland Grey With Grey Interior	£10,495
08 08	Skoda 1.9 Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver	£11,495
08 08	Skoda 1.9 Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior	£11,495
08 58	Skoda Auto Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver	£11,995
09 59	Skoda Octavia S Tdi 1.9 5 Door Estate Finished In White With Grey Interior With under 2500 miles	£13,250
08 58	Skoda Octavia Vrs Tdi Cr 2.0 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Red With Black Interior	£15,995

Other Makes – Used Car Stock

01 Y	Peugeot Partner 600 Lx 1.4 Mpv Finished In White With under 56900 miles.	£2,995
99 V	Vauxhall Astra Club Auto 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Cloth Interior	£2,995
06 55	Peugeot 206 Verve Sw 1.4 5 Door Estate Finished In Black Blue With Black Interior	£5,585
04 54	Renault Megane Dy-Miquie Vvl 1.3 6 2.0 5 Door Estate Finished In Beige Tan	£5,995
04 04	Subaru Forester XL Turbo 2.0 Estate Finished In Blue With Cloth Interior With under 59400 miles	£5,995
06 55	Peugeot 206 Sport 1.6 3 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior	£5,995
07 07	Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Laser Red With Grey Cloth Interior	£5,995
07 07	Peugeot 207 S 1.4 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With under 37100 miles.	£6,885
07 07	Vauxhall Meriva Energy 16V 1.6 Mpv Finished In Silver With Cloth Interior With under 37500 miles	£6,995
08 08	Citroen C1 Rhythm 1.0 3 Door Hatchback Finished In Scarlet Red With Grey Interior	£6,995
06 56	Volkswagen Polo 5 SS 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Blue With Black Interior	£7,295
04 04	Jaguar X-Type Se D 2.0 Saloon Finished In Silver With Leather Interior With under 38900 miles.	£8,995

02 02 Skoda Fabia Comfort

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Interest	First 3 Months
£4450	£0	£4450	£937.76	£0

Followed by 36 Months	Total Amount Payable	
£149.66	£5,387.76	11.5% APR Typical

09 59 Skoda Fabia 2 Htp 12V 1.2 5 Door Estate

· Finished In Rosso Red · With Grey Interior · With under 100 miles · List Price £11,300

Clearance Price £9,795

SAVE £1,505

09 59 Skoda Octavia S Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback

· Finished In White · With Black Interior · With under 100 miles · List Price £14,213

Clearance Price £12,795

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2004 SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear , 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 47,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey. ABS, Air conditioning, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control. **£7,495**

2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance contro **£7,295**

2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 69,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. **£5,495**

2001 Y SAAB 9-3 2.2 TiD SE , 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator. Insurance Group: 12 ..... **£3,295**

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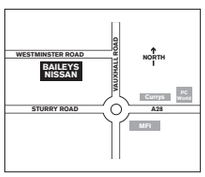

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^ New cash prices shown include £2,000 Scrappage incentive. The Government Scrappage Scheme is available from 18/05/2009 until the Government funding is utilised or until 28/02/2010 (whichever is sooner). Trade in vehicles under the Government Scheme must have been registered on or before 29/02/2000. The keeper of a trade in vehicle should have a UK address shown on the V5C and have been the registered keeper of the trade in vehicle for at least 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. Also a trade in vehicle must have a current MOT certificate at order date of the new vehicle and must be under 3.5 tonnes in weight. Full Terms and Conditions apply (see your local Nissan dealership for details). Schemes available at participating Nissan dealers only. Schemes not available in conjunction with Motability or any other offers. Terms and Conditions subject to change without prior notice. Excludes Channel Islands / Isle of Man. All prices include £55 first registration fee and road fund licence. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Models subject to availability. PIXO shown has optional metallic paint at £365 including 15% VAT, Micra shown has optional metallic paint at £395 including 15% VAT, NOTE shown has optional metallic paint at £395 including 15% VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

AUDI

A4, S4 Quattro, rv04uhh, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, rear headrests, front fog lamps, abs, twin air bags, power hood, 18'' alloys, 4x4, red, 53000 miles, £13999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

A4, Fsi Sport, re54hlf, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, abs, multiple airbags cd player, radio, alloy wheels, visit our website for details of 50 similAR Cars. silver, 49000 miles, £7990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

A6, Allroad TDi Quattro, ay54kpo, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, colour satnav, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, dual climate zones, multi-disc cd player, alloy wheels, 4x4, visit our website for details of 50 similAR Cars. metallic grey, 69000 miles, £10990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

BMW

1 Series, 116 iSport 5dr with full leather, lt55vmd, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, rear headrests, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, japan red, 48000 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d M SPORT, sy06awx, only 43005 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, le mans blue, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d SE SAT NAV, ac08pgv, only 14072 miles, manufacturers service history, sat nav, i drive system, cream leather, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, black, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d M SPORT, pf55bzd, only 51787 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, privacy glass, loudspeaker system, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoliers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old. *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, black, £12997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 120i SE CONV, la08lvo, only 8122 miles, manufacturers pdi, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old. *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, cashmere silver, £18469, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 120i SE, yk08mkl, only 2717 miles, manufacturers service history, electric folding wing mirrors, sun protection glass, comfort package, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, rear spoiler, remote key central locking, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old. *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, montego blue, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d SE, av56ywl, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, third point seat belt, tonneau cover, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, titanium silver, 0 miles, £8947, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 116i ES, dy06usx, only 62014 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, black, £8747, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace, s923 ecd, power steering, air bag, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, red, 85100 miles, £1995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra). over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, hand wash facilities. white, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, w173knu, large fridge. large oven. hot & cold water. ambient section. white, 77000 miles, £6995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ld59ees, satellite navigation, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new. immediate delivery. grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. white, 1 miles, £10995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.9D Refrigerated Chiller, 3204180, grp lined. hubbard fridge. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 17000 miles, £5695, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 600 Refrigerated Chiller, pj51zrv, grp lined. davia 'discreet fridge'. p/x to clear. mot & tax. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 0 miles, £2595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi 600 LX Refrigerated Chiller, fd07uba, side load door, cd player, air bag, abs, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric windows, electric mirrors, grp lined. hubbard fridge. over fifty , 0 miles, £5995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi 600 LX Refrigerated Chiller, fd07zfj, side load door, radio cassette, air bag, abs, remote central locking, power steering, immobiliser, electric windows, electric mirrors, grp lined.white, 0 miles, £5795, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, LX 600 D Enterprise, ly54mvp, ply-lined, roof rails, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, air bag, abs, remote central locking, immobiliser, white, 63000 miles, £2295, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDi 600Kg First Diesel, 574749256, pas, drivers airbag, service indicator, immobiliser, solid paint, front head restraints, white, 51 miles, £6995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BERLINGO Multispace, gj59ehv, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front fog lights, trip computer, side airbags, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, isofix child seat anchor points, roof rails, 3x3 point rear seat belts, front head restraints, rear headrests, full size spare wheel, service indicator, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, height adjustable drivers seat, audio remote control, silver, 12 miles, £12445, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch, gj59eke, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, service indicator, steel wheels, immobiliser, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, sports seats, audio remote control, black, 15 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i Cool 3dr Hatch Sp Eds, gf57uzl, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, steel wheels, isofix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, rear headrests, audio remote control, folding rear seats, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, blue, 14453 miles, £5995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C2, Design 1124cc 3 door, 2005, cd player central locking driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, blue, 30450 miles, £4495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

C3, Desire 5dr, en07nws, cloth upholstery, power steering, immobiliser, remote central locking, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, colour coded body, twin air bags, isofix, abs, electric mirrors, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, black, 24000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

C3, Exclusive, gu08kbn, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, stereo, electric front windows, trip computer, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, child locks, head restraints, isofix, 16'' alloys, height adjustable front seatbelts, digital clock, oil temperature gauge, height adjustable front headrests, centre console with cupholders, cigarette lighter, audible lights on warning, lockable glovebox, pen holder in centre console, multi function display, full size spare wheel, passenger seat height adjuster, upper glovebox, locking fuel filler cap, auto door lock when driving, drivers one touch window with anti-pinch feature, automatic boot locking, digital dashboard display, air recirculation system, aluminium gear knob, driver/passenger armrests, pollen filter, rear parcel shelf, front seatback pockets, audible speed warning programmable, body colour bumper skirts, height adjustable headlamps, maintenance indicator, high level third brake light, black panel night illumination, drawer under drivers seat, oil level indicator, 5 three point inertia reel seatbelts, coolant level warning indicator, split folding rear seat, aluminium effect interior door handles, tilt/height adjustable steering wheel, energy absorbing side impact protection, door pockets on all four doors, aluminium effect front vents, heated rear window with intermittent wash/wipe, automatic, 16'' cheetah alloy wheels, grey, 2000 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch Special Edition, gd06ayf, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, steel wheels, front head restraints, audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, blue, 12878 miles, £5995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Cool 5dr Hatch Special Edition, gd07hxw, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, steel wheels, front head restraints, audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, blue, 4346 miles, £6750, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, wn58wcy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, sports seats, traction control, tropicalia yellow, 15 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 Active Sport 5dr Hatch, rk59pgy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, rear headrests silver metallic, 100 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9 Multijet 150 Dynamic 5dr Diesel Hatch, rk59pnf, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, rear electric windows, front fog lights, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control,, 100 miles, £13995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.6 Multijet Dynamic Eco 5dr Diesel Hatch, av58ltf, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, rear electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control, folding rear seats, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, space saver spare wheel, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear headrests, cool jazz blue metallic, 12000 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.9 Multijet Dynamic 5dr [120] Diesel Estate, rv58jvf, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, rear headrests, folding rear seats, body coloured bumpers, service indicator, space saver spare wheel, lumbar support, immobiliser, front armrest, front head restraints, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, height adjustable drivers seat, beige metallic, 17250 miles, £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Active Hr, mt06zgd, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, electric front windows, trip computer, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, automatic electric windows, cloth upholstery, power steering, rear wiper, heated rear window, space saver spare wheel, service interval indicator, air recirculation system, side rubbing strips, height adjustable driver's seat, rear parcel shelf, height adjustable front headrests, driver's seat armrest, body coloured door mirrors, sliding side doors, seatbelt pretensioners with load limiters, 2nd row 60/40 split/fold, 5 x 3 point seatbelts, passenger side oddments compartment with lid on fascia, follow me home headlights, storage compartments under sunvisors, second row windows with sliding rear panel, blue, 13000 miles, £6495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Bonhoffa Hot & Cold Catering Vending Truck, av05nwj, bonhoffa conversion. hot cabinet. cold cabinet. 3x access hatches. hand wash. led internal lighting. white, 29000 miles, £11995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Jtd Dynamic Diesel, gk06wmg, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, power steering, abs, twin air bags, front fog lamps, cambelt changed, central locking, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, retractable headrests, height adjustable, 76000 miles, £4999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DOBLO Cargo, mf56uxz, cloth upholstery, twin sliding doors, ply-lined, bulkhead, barn doors, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, white, 29000 miles, £4745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DUCATO, 35 Lwb 120 Multijet Refrigerated Chiller, wp56ofg, side load door, dual passenger seat, cd player, air bag, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, grp lined. hubbard fridge. electric stanby available if required. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 20000 miles, £11995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, bg56ypk, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator, height adjustable drivers seat, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, new orleans blue metallic, 26880 miles, £6285, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, lm08vue, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, jungle grey metallic, 3074 miles, £7987, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, ea06xop, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £6996, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, gf56eka, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator,coloured bumpers, immobiliser, rock'n'roll blue, 20000 miles, £5995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, na56uso, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, new orleans blue metallic, 20000 miles, £6795, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, mj56wae, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, bolero red metallic, 14000 miles, £6995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, gk09wne, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, jungle grey metallic, 5700 miles, £8395, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI ZETEC 110 5DR [DPF] 56 MPG, ro08vrx, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, quickclear heated screen, balance of 3 year warranty, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, pas. silver, 19000 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr*******SPORT PACK 3*******, ng08hhr, 18 alloys, rain sensing wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, grey, 25693 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nnf, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, adjustable seats, child locks, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, remote locking, side airbags.. insurance group:7, grey, 28102 miles, £10500, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 5dr, ef58cuc, climate control air conditioning, dvd touch screen sat nav, privacy glass, rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:10, black, 3562 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI ZETEC 5DR, wv58ezh, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, electric windows, heated screen, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, privacy glass, remote central locking. insurance group:7, please contact alistair mcewen, black, 22820 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI TITANIUM 110 5DR [DPF], ea58axk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, remote locking, colour coding body.. insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £14490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCI ZETEC 5DR - PRIVACY, nl08ysv, esp, privacy glass, quickclear, adjustable seats, , silver, 26668 miles, £9990, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0 TITANIUM 5DR BLUETOOTH+PARKING SENSORS+, ad07cuy, rear parking sensors, quickclear, auto headlights, auto wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:12, please call les bellchambers for further details and offers. blue, 27195 miles, £9990, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCI ZETEC 5DR - BLUETOOTH + PARK ASSIST, gk58vlr, rear parking sensors, privacy glass, quickclear, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, rear headrests, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, please call les bellchambers for further details and offers. grey, 15500 miles, £12990, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.5 ST-3 5dr **ST 3 FULL RECARO LEATHER SEATS**, gn08lbv, air conditioning, alloy wheels, headlight washers, leather seats, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, esp, sony cd, xenon headlights, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, cd. blue, 17673 miles, £16995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO, bf09uls, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag,control, cloth seat trim, solid paint, space saver spare wheel. blue, 13775 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

Octavia 1.9 TDi PD Ambiente
5 doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2007, 30448 miles, Flamenco Red Metallic £8,795

Fabia 1.6 16V 3 Sd Tiptronic
2008, 5,751 miles, Cappuccino Beige Metallic £9,495

Fabia - 1.9 TDi vRS
5 doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2006, 21800 miles, Lemon Yellow £6,495

Octavia - 1.9 TDi PD Elegance
DSG 5 doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 2007, 43737 miles, Brilliant Silver Metallic £10,995

Fabia - 1.4 TDi PD DPF Greenline
(80 BHP) 5 doors, Hatchback, Diesel, 2009, 1543 miles, Satin Grey Metallic £10,495

Octavia - 2.0 TDi PD vRS
5 doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2008, 22376 miles, Sprint Yellow £13,995

Fabia - 1.4 TDi PD Ambiente
(80 HP) 5 doors, Manual, Estate, Diesel, 2006, 31646 miles, Corrida Red £6,795

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FORD

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 3DRSPORT PACK BLUETOOTH P/SENSORS, ea58oyb, quickclear heated screen, rear parking sensors, privacy glass, ford direct vehicle, esp, sport pack, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, spoiler, rear headrests, tinted glass, blue, 7000 miles, £12500, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.5 ST-2 3DR, gn08hzm, sony adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, spoiler, rear headrests, quickclear heated screen, balance of 3 year warranty, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, headlight washers, side airbags, radio/cd, alarm, cloth seat trim, solid paint. blue, 16957 miles, £16495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR, lm08yme, 17 alloy upgrade, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, audio remote control, cloth seat trim, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, height adjustable drivers seat, remote central locking, solid paint, space saver spare wheel, alarm, rear electric windows, partial leather seat trim. black, 33784 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, ex09ygk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, privacy glass, rear park assist, central locking. insurance group:10, blue, 8554 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 ZETEC 5DR, ll58vfd, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, alarm, audio remote control, solid paint, space saver spare wheel, cloth seat trim, electric mirrors, electric windows, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, remote central locking. insurance group:7, silver, 13840 miles, £12490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 ZETEC S 5DR, ej09wdz, air conditioning, alloy wheels, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, pas, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, space saver spare wheel, steering wheel rake adjustment, steering wheel reach adjustment, trip computer, please contact alistair mcewen, grey, 3533 miles, £13490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TITANIUM 5DR AUTO, ea58xey, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, 2nd remote key, privacy glass, rear park assist, sony cd player, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, remote locking.. insurance group:10, red, 8454 miles, £13490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK], ak07kmg, alloy wheels, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, pas, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, space saver spare wheel, steering wheel rake adjustment, steering wheel reach adjustment, trip computer, cloth seat trim, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, electric windows, mcewen, red, 24910 miles, £9290, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, I-Ctdi Executive, la53owb, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, folding rear seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, cruise control, power steering, satellite navigation, stability control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, electric sunroof, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, 16'' alloys, blue, 97000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Vision E 3dr, gn52pfj, cambelt changed, immobiliser, remote central locking, head restraints, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, blue, 86000 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CIVIC, VTEC 2 Door Saloon, ov52 fok, air conditioning, cd player, radio, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, electric front windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, cloth upholstery, multi-disc cd player, twin air bags, abs, power steering, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, alloy wheels, gold, 75100 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, S 5dr, lb52 lwr, air conditioning, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, red, 68100 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type-S 5dr, ax54kyh, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, visit our website for details of 50 similAR Cars. bright blue metallic, 21000 miles, £6990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC SE Sport, ek04 elc, air conditioning, power steering, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, centre armrest, cd player, radio, electric sunroof, twin air bags, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 51700 miles, £7695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC SE Sport, sl04 kbp, air conditioning, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric sunroof, twin air bags, alloy wheels, 4x4, grey, 63400 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC Executive, du56phk, abs, air bag, immobiliser, alarm, air conditioning, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, sunroof, cd player, satellite navigation, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, rear headrests, automatic electric windows, privacy glass, rear armrest, isofix, 16'' alloys, 4x4, heated front seats, pas, roof mounted aerial, visible vehicle identification number, illuminated glovebox, digital clock, side impact protection beams, body colour bumpers, elec heated + adjust door mirrors, full size spare wheel, hard spare wheel cover, internally adjust headlights, tonneau cover, front headrests, 16'' alloy wheels, high level rear brake light, body colour side bump strips, steering wheel mounted controls, tachometer, external temperature gauge, leather multi function steering wheel, front passenger seat undertray, body colour door mirrors, chrome tailpipe finisher, headlamp on reminder, front and rear speakers, tilt adjustable steering wheel, driver/passenger front seatback pockets, reclining rear seats, remote keyless entry, pollen filter, rear mudflaps, lockable glovebox, 12v socket in rear of vehicle, chrome door handles, driver/passenger sunvisors and lidded vanity mirrors, driver seat height adjust, underfloor storage system in load area, passenger armrest, 60/40 split fold rear seat back, sliding rear seats, boot integrated picnic table, tweeters, vechicle stability assist, folding front centre storage tray, front skid plate, tie down hooks in luggage area, drivers footrest, illuminated ignition switch, leather and alloy gearknob, honda super locks, front mudguards, 3 point height adj front seatbelts + pretensioners, front and rear cupholders, leather upholstery, driver's seat armrest, fuel filler release, black, 19000 miles, £13995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi Sport SE 5dr, af05lwg, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, side air bags, twin air bags, central locking, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, electric windows, climate control, multi-disc cd player, steering wheel audio controls, alloy wheels, visit our website for details of 50 similAR Cars. silver grey metallic, 70000 miles, £5990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi S 5dr, bp05 rsv, power steering, abs, central locking, electric front windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, cd player, radio, twin air bags, silver, 47800 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

AMICA, CDX 5dr, gj56pjo, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, stereo, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, 13'' alloys, full size spare wheel, seatbelt pretensioners, audible lights on warning, 4 speakers, heated rear window, tachometer, body colour door mirrors, 50/50 split folding rear seat, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, front door pockets, pas, leather steering wheel, tinted glass, mudflaps front and rear, height adjustable front seatbelts, leather gear knob, ashtray and cigar lighter, seatback hooks, headlamp levelling, interior light, front seatback pockets, black bodyside mouldings, remote fuel flap release, seatbelt warning, front underseat storage trays, 13'' alloy wheels, front cupholders, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, door/boot open warning light, front wipers with variable intermittent facility, boot light, blue, 9000 miles, £5495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, eo57njk, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, stereo, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, 13'' alloys, pas, full size spare wheel, audible lights on warning, boot light, front wipers with variable intermittent facility, leather gear knob, ashtray and cigar lighter, seatback hooks, leather steering wheel, tinted glass, mudflaps front and rear, seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, 4 speakers, heated rear window, tachometer, headlamp levelling, body colour door mirrors, 50/50 split folding rear seat, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, front door pockets, interior light, front seatback pockets, black bodyside mouldings, remote fuel flap release, seatbelt warning, front underseat storage trays, 13'' alloy wheels, front cupholders, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, door/boot open warning light, yellow, 9000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, eo57njj, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, stereo, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, 13'' alloys, full size spare wheel, leather steering wheel, audible lights on warning, tinted glass, seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, 4 speakers, heated rear window, tachometer, body colour door mirrors, 50/50 split folding rear seat, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, front door pockets, pas, front wipers with variable intermittent facility, boot light, leather gear knob, mudflaps front and rear, ashtray and cigar lighter, seatback hooks, headlamp levelling, interior light, front seatback pockets, black bodyside mouldings, remote fuel flap release, seatbelt warning, front underseat storage trays, 13'' alloy wheels, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, door/boot open warning light, front cupholders, yellow, 9000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, pj07dnu, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, stereo, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, 13'' alloys, tinted glass, 4 speakers, heated rear window, tachometer, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, front door pockets, pas, full size spare wheel, leather steering wheel, audible lights on warning, mudflaps front and rear, seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, boot light, front wipers , front cupholders, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, door/boot open warning light, blue, 4000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

107, Urban 2-Tronic 3dr, ex58hxe, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, stereo, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, stability control, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, head restraints, rear armrest, cloth upholstery, isofix, full size spare wheel, tinted glass, height adjustable steering wheel, locking fuel filler cap, 4 speed heater fan, roof mounted aerial, 12v accessory socket, lights on warning, fascia integrated coded audio, front courtesy lights, luggage cover, front seatbelt pretensioners with force limiters, body coloured bumpers with black inserts, clear polycarbonate headlight lenses, pas speed related, under steering wheel storage, tilt/slide reclining front seats, side impact protection in doors, body coloured door mirrors, digital clock, glovebox, front door bins, 50/50 split folding rear seat, body colour door handles, black side rubbing strips, boot carpet, internally adjustable door mirrors, handbrake/brake fluid warning light, rear parcel shelf, centre console storage, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, high level third brake light, illuminated heater controls, remote headlamp adjustment from fascia, rear storage bins, 2 speakers, oil level indicator, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, cd storage in centre console, fixed rear side window, car location device via plip key, driver seatbelt warning indicator, circular air vents, silver grey surround to air vents, black vinyl finish to front door pillars, single 2 speed front intermittent wiper, 14'' steel wheels with ''tanya'' wheel trims, single piece rear tailgate with push button release, cupholders in centre console, coolant temperature indicator, dashboard storage, 1 plip, 1 standard key, red, 1400 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

107, 1.0 12v Urban, ly06rxk, 5 speed manual gearbox, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, cloth interior, driver, passenger and front side air bags, front electric windows, front/rear head restraints, full size steel spare wheel, immobiliser, manual door mirrors, power-assisted steering, rake adjustable steering column/wheel, remote central door locking, two seats rear seat isofix anchorage point, zircon grey metallic, 21000 miles, £6495, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

107, Urban 2-Tronic 3dr, hy07rxw, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, stereo, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, stability control, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, head restraints, rear armrest, cloth upholstery, isofix, full size spare wheel, tinted glass, front courtesy lights, height adjustable steering wheel, locking fuel filler cap, front seatbelt pretensioners with force limiters, 12v accessory socket, 4 speed heater fan, roof mounted aerial, body coloured door mirrors, pas speed related, lights on warning, 50/50 split folding rear seat, body colour door handles, rear parcel shelf, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, high level third brake light, car location device via plip key, remote headlamp adjustment from fascia, rear storage bins, oil level indicator, dashboard storage, 2 rear 3 point safety belts, side impact protection in doors, luggage cover, handbrake/brake fluid warning light, fascia integrated coded audio, single 2 speed front intermittent wiper, 14'' steel wheels with ''tanya'' wheel trims, single piece rear tailgate with push button release, tilt/slide reclining front seats, cd storage in centre console, body coloured bumpers with black inserts, clear polycarbonate headlight lenses, digital clock, glovebox, front door bins, fixed rear side window, under steering wheel storage, black side rubbing strips, boot carpet, internally adjustable door mirrors, driver seatbelt warning indicator, centre console storage, cupholders in centre console, coolant temperature indicator, illuminated heater controls, circular air vents, silver grey surround to air vents, 2 speakers, 1 plip, 1 standard key, black vinyl finish to front door pillars, aluminium silver, 1300 miles, £6995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

107, Urban 3dr, lv58ysy, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, stereo, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, stability control, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, head restraints, rear armrest, cloth upholstery, isofix, full size spare wheel, tinted glass, height adjustable steering wheel, locking fuel filler cap, 4 speed heater fan, front seatbelt pretensioners with force limiters, lights on warning, body coloured door mirrors, pas speed related, digital clock, glovebox, front door bins, under steering wheel storage, 50/50 split folding rear seat, car location device via plip key, black side rubbing strips, boot carpet, centre console storage, two 3 point rear seatbelts, 1 plip, 1 standard key, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, 2 rear number plate illumination lights, red, 2000 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

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Boom town jobs defy downturn

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SUPERMARKET giant Waitrose has given boom town Ashford another vote of confidence with its first store in the town and 154 new jobs.

And the John Lewis Partnership chain is one of several companies to have brought fresh employment to Ashford recently, as the town's prospects defy the recession.

Last month, rail engineering firm Bombardier committed to 60 new jobs after transferring contracts to its Ashford maintenance depot. And Facts International, which undertakes research for a number of global companies, launched a recruitment drive at its Henwood call centre.

More than 600 jobs have so far been created at Ashford's fast-expanding Eureka Business Park, including 80 at the recently completed Eureka Place retail site, designed to serve business occupiers and the local community.

IN STORE: Ashford's many retail attractions – including the designer outlet – will be enhanced by the arrival of Waitrose in the town

Eureka Place arrivals include pub company Marston's, bookmakers Coral and healthcare firm Circle. Meanwhile, the town centre's County Square shopping precinct has four new tenants: Kids Stuff, Watches R Us, Silverleaf Jewellery and a newsagent, joining established retailers including Debenhams, H&M, New Look, River Island, Next, Marks & Spencer and BHS.

The redeveloped shopping centre has enjoyed a 10 per cent increase in footfall during 2009, despite the recession that has hit many other retail centres across the region.

Earlier this year, hotel chain Premier Inns chose Ashford for a new 74-bedroom hotel and the town now has the UK's largest wedding store Brides UK, which brought 18 more jobs.

The latter was another sign of the town's growing importance after Brides UK director Anthony Keates chose to develop in the Kent town ahead of Newcastle. The new megastore is the first of a series across the country.

Judith Armitt, MD of the Ashford's Future agency – a consortium of national and local government bodies – said: "Ashford's continuing success in attracting investment is fuelled by its unrivalled location, which has been enhanced by the arrival of high-speed trains that have slashed the journey time to London to 37 minutes."

A further 150 Ashford jobs are in the pipeline for March 2010 when the former police training centre at Grosvenor Hall opens as a children's education and activity centre after a multi-million-pound redevelopment.

Business rate cut delivers early Christmas cheer

RECESSION-hit firms across Kent and the South East had an early Christmas present this week when the Government confirmed that 70 per cent of business rate bills will fall next year.

More than 100,000 across the region are affected by a revaluation of commercial properties with a small minority paying more, although the Government has created a £2 billion relief scheme, self-funded by businesses, to limit and phase in these increases.

But the lucky ones can expect an average decrease of £770 in their business rate bills for 2010/11. Some of the bureaucracy in small business rate relief has also been swept away – a move welcomed by the Federation of Small Businesses.

Local Government Minister Barbara Follett said: "Revaluation makes sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. It will not raise a single extra penny for Government."

Ministers are also keen to highlight other ways in which they have been helping the commercial sector. South East Regional Minister Jonathan Shaw said: "Already almost 35,000 agreements have been made with businesses in the South East to spread the payment of their tax bills, amounting to £620 million.

"More than 900 Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme new loans have been offered to businesses in the South East, totalling over £91m; and there have been almost 18,000 free Business Link 'health checks' in the region since October, 2008 – more than any other region.

"The Government is committed to supporting businesses through the downturn."

General initiatives have also included allowing firms to delay corporation tax, VAT and other payments and a commitment from Government to pay suppliers within 10 days.

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Specialist Macknade still feeding Kent's appetite for quality

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPECIALIST food retailer Macknade has dispelled recessionary gloom by continuing to cater for an apparently undiminished public appetite for quality food.

This buoyancy and enthusiasm for good produce of all kinds made the Faversham firm a clear winner in the Retail category of the KOS Media Business Challenge.

"We have been 30 years in the business and, despite the recession, people are still appreciating products of quality," said Macknade Fine Foods partner Stefano Cuomo.

The company, which has its main site at Selling Road, just off the A2 at Faversham, plus a town centre store in West Street, has grown largely by word of mouth, but Stefano welcomed the award win – a trophy plus marketing spend of some £90,000 with KOS Media titles.

"As things do get tighter, it's nice to look towards advertising and other marketing tools we can use," he added.

Macknade's roots can be traced to William the Conqueror's Domesday Book where the 'Manor of Makenade' is recorded as owned by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux.

AWARD WINNER: Macknade Fine Foods at Faversham

One family has farmed the land there since 1847 when the staple crops were hops and fruit, but farming changed rapidly after World War Two and the last hop harvest was in 1988. The farm itself is now largely fruit and arable production, while Macknade Fine Foods has grown from a tent on 20 hectares of pick your own crops, where Stefano's Italian father Renato would use some space to grow more 'exotic' produce.

A large shed replaced the tent and this 'farm shop' began tempting people with unusual fruit and vegetables.

Many people had their first sight here of mange tout, courgette flowers, asparagus-peas and yellow and purple raspberries, though the shop continued to – and still does – deal in 'spuds' and carrots.

To view, search 'Macknade'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

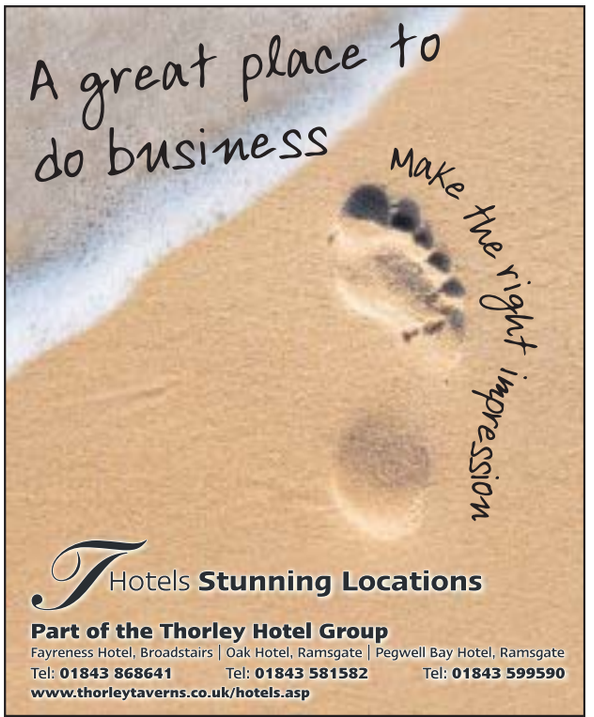
Stefano and Patricia Cuomo of Macknade Fine Foods accept the Retail Award from Matt Baldwin of Coast Communications

Stefano said: "Consumers were becoming more adventurous and ambitious young chefs began pushing the boundaries of what people ate when they were out.

"They, in turn, were tempted to experiment at home with new dishes and started beating a path to us.

"And if they came in looking for this or that then they would invariably also buy something else and so it has continued."

Apart from local produce, Macknade also sources from London's Covent Garden and also prides itself on freshly baked bread and pastries and quality meats and cheeses, fine English and European wines, extra virgin olive oils, juices squeezed in-store, handmade Belgian chocolates and a seemingly endless list of other goodies.



College says the time is right to make a Fresh Start in farming

Farming is tipped to boom as global competition for food increases, sterling remains weak and we recognise the consequences of foodstuffs being sent huge distances. Hadlow College – one of the UK's leading agricultural colleges – is staging a discussion evening next week featuring the Fresh Start initiative and leading lights from the industry across Kent

THERE is a danger that we have become so used to terms like food security, climate change and population boom that we simply brush them aside, ***writes Pat Crawford***.

We also risk ignoring famine on a huge scale. With more mouths to feed and the potential loss of productive land, farmers and growers need to step up production to provide food security in the near future, which means agriculture and associated industries must also find new recruits.

Hadlow College already has many agriculture students, yet farming industries will need far more.

With this in mind, the college is inviting anyone interested in making a career in farming to attend an informal and friendly meeting on Wednesday, December 2, from 6pm.

It is aimed particularly at people who, when times were bad, left the industry but would now like to return and benefit from the farming revival. The invitation also applies to those who have been made redundant and any others looking for a possible career change, and to young people who may know little about, yet may be surprised by, what farming industries offer in terms of career progression. Attendees will be interested particularly by the Government-funded Fresh Start (www.careerinfarming.co.uk) initiative and there will be an opportunity to discuss a variety of other training programmes, including degrees. Guests will include practising farmers, current students, ex-students working in the industry and other key stakeholders.

The programme will include short, informative presentations and it is hoped people will feel free to join the debate.

The evening starts with a buffet and presents an excellent opportunity to discuss the industry now and what must happen to it in the future.

If you wish to attend, register with Sue White at Hadlow College on 01732 853266.

It's all quiet on the festive front

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FAR from enjoying Christmas cheer as it enters what is traditionally its busiest period, the hospitality trade faces one of its quietest festive seasons ever.

Pub closures are running at 40-50 a week nationally and now the once buoyant restaurant trade – fuelled by a diet of TV gourmet stars and programmes – has also been struck down by the recession bug.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountancy and auditing giant calculates that UK restaurant insolvencies soared by a quarter over the first nine months of this year.

It could have been worse though: the first three months of 2009 saw a record 183 significant restaurant businesses fail nationally, with the following six months described as "a mixed bag for hospitality" as a weaker pound attracted overseas tourists and cash-strapped UK consumers opted for 'staycations' rather than holidays abroad.

Squeeze

Nevertheless, failures are still lodged at 25 per cent higher for the first three quarters of the year, compared with the trend from January to September in 2008, and PricewaterhouseCoopers expects a new peak in early 2010 as the public, corporate and private spending squeeze grips harder.

Director for hospitality and leisure at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Stephen Broome, said: "Despite the descent into technical recession, this time last year many corporate Christmas lunches had already been booked, deposits taken, and to cancel would have meant letting staff down.

"However, faced with the economic realities of this recession company bosses have now had nine months to refine policies and prepare staff for more restrained celebrations this Christmas.

"Many employees wishing to celebrate will do so at their own expense and this is likely to have a direct impact on the bottom line of restaurants."

Mr Broome added that successful discount promotion and voucher codes had ensured survival for many restaurants this year, though the pressure is on managers to carry on with deals into the festive season – a time when they would normally be able to boost profitability.

Fortunately for Kent and the South East though, the fall out is worse elsewhere and the region was one of those that most benefited from the weak pound/tourist scenario highlighted by the accountancy firm.

CHEERS: But many in the hospitality trade are expecting a very quiet holiday season

Pile it high and sell it cheap with all you can eat

Taybarns THE ULTIMATE EATERY

COULD an 'all you can eat' menu and pricing bring consumers back to the hospitality table as pubs, restaurants and hotels battle recession?

The question is posed by the success of the Taybarns chain, which has expanded robustly – possibly along with the waistbands of clientele – in just a year.

The concept is, not surprisingly, based on American models and has seven outlets, largely in the North.

However, it could come to Kent and the South East soon as parent group Whitbread eyes up converting 30 of its Brewers Fayre family pubs to the Taybarns format. At Taybarns, punters pay as little as £5.99 at the door and grab a plate and pile it up – and keep on piling it up.

The menu features all the popular fast foods: pizza, pasta, carvery and, of course, fries. Taybarns has given itself a USP though with a line-up of chilli dishes and the like under the fairly self-explanatory 'fusion' label, Texican.

The emphasis is on cheap dining out for the family and was pioneered in America, though the all-one-price/all-you-can eat approach has been popular here in Sunday lunch pub operations and some ethnic restaurants.

COMMENT

NO PRIZES for guessing that the hospitality trade is poorly served by the recession. Many venues – notably pubs and restaurants – face closure or have already folded, while hospitality specialists and suppliers have had to scale back or cease trading.

The rate of pub closures has been particularly worrying over the past five years and was accelerated by the smoking ban.

But soaring real estate prices and the pub trade's shift away from drinks-only (or 'wet') outlets to mixed or even gastropub venues had already started the rot and boozers are closing at up to 50 a week, with massive collateral damage to jobs in venues and the supply chain.

If that carries on then we face a final cry of 'Last orders!' in about 20 years' time as Britain loses its last pub – a sobering thought.

As it stands, any corporate or private pub owner faces a no brainer: why flog yourself for little or no reward when you can flog a boozer for a tidy profit?

Shepherd Neame put 35 under-performing pubs on the market during its latest financial year. Chances are many will end up as houses, flats or redevelopments.

But the Faversham-based brewer's next breath underlined that it's not all bad news in the trade. As well as the clear out, it highlighted 13 new purchases to fit its master plan to concentrate on food-orientated pubs and 'beacon outlets'.

And there was another clue to the future. The brewer has carefully added 'designer' beers to its portfolio and acknowledged the success of the Japanese Asahi Dry brand.

But homegrown stalwarts Master Brew and Spitfire, as well as shrewd spin-off ales like Whitstable Bay, were also credited, showing that traditional beer business has not died.

And a pint of classic, hand-drawn real ale is one of the few experiences the stop-at-home recession hit consumer cannot buy in the supermarket or 'offie' and replicate at home.

He can buy any amount of lager and know it will taste pretty much like the more expensive fizz down the local pub or hotel bar and he can even buy bottled ales, but it won't match a natural pint of bitter or stout.

He could go direct to a brewery and manhandle a cask into his car or even have one delivered – and there are people who will do that – but it's not exactly an impulse buy, is it?

Hardly surprising, then, that indomitable beer champion the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) has reported rather gleefully (see page 82) that the 'proper stuff' could be riding to the rescue of pubs and the hospitality trade.

Surprisingly, too, this upsurge is not down to the capacious, bearded and sandal-wearing stereotype of old either, but discerning women consumers.

Can hard-pressed venues across the hospitality trade afford to ignore one of the few bright spots in the market place?

BUSINESS EDITOR ANDY ROGERS

A 'real' fightback in pubs and bars

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

REAL ale champion the Campaign for Real Ale has battled for years against the decline of the nation's once ubiquitous pub favourite.

But it appears Camra now has something to raise a glass to: real ale is currently the only type of beer on the up.

Surprisingly, after years of being pigeonholed as the favourite tipple of bearded male drinkers, a major reason for the growth is due to women enjoying this traditional product, which ranges from mild to bitter to dark stouts and even 'new age' golden beers resembling lagers in appearance.

Fizzing

It means that 'real' or cask ale now has a 13.5 per cent share of the UK pub beer market, up 2.5 per cent on 2007 – despite the recession.

Meanwhile, draught lagers and kegs – owing their fizz to added CO2 or nitrogen rather than natural fermentation – have fallen.

The figures are drawn from Cask Report, compiled by beer writer Pete Brown, who said: "Turnaround stories don't get much better than cask beer's.

"In a shrinking on-trade beer market, cask is the only category to show growth, albeit modest, of one per cent in the first half of 2009.

"But what's most important for Britain's licensee is that there's compelling evidence to show that cask beer can offer them a lifeline out of the recession."

Other findings showed that although 52 pubs are closing per week, pubs with Cask Marque real ale accreditation are shutting at half the industry rate.

It also shows that the number of women drinking real ale has doubled, while admitting that recent buoyancy may also be due to fans being more affluent and able to afford a pint or two at the local. Other encouraging signs from the report show 400,000 drinkers tried real ale for the first time in 2008, real ale was taken on afresh by 3,000 pubs in 2008 and 71 new breweries opened in Britain over the past year.

GET REAL: Cask ale's share of the UK beer market has risen to 13.5 per cent since 2007

Hospitality tips

- Ask whether the customer has been here before. Whatever the answer, this gives the chance to inform about the menu and special offers, when the outlet opened etc.
- Ask if it is a special occasion – perhaps a birthday – and if they know the area. Offer tips on things to see.
- Avoid a long speech though; use soundbites to inform about specials, drinks, desserts and any diary dates.
- Discreetly gather contact details; issue a card and let customers fill them in at their discretion. Many won't, but if you don't ask, you don't get.
- Follow-up by mailing with a souvenir or menu and reminder of your website. It could trigger a return visit by them or a friend or relative – or a party.
- And an excellent 'sign-off' from Aussie hospitality guru and restaurateur Ken Burgin, who would ask one of his waitresses to sit down each week with a pile of postcards and send a simple greeting from him: "How were they to know it wasn't my handwriting? In the age of email, handwritten notes are more powerful than ever."

Venues need to know the cyber word is out

SOCIAL networking is shaping up to be one of the most influential forces in hospitality – for better or worse, ***writes Andy Rogers.***

And it has gathered this extra clout at a crucial time for hard-pressed venues and organisers.

Word of mouth has always been a powerful marketing tool at the industry's disposal; relatives, friends and workmates can all pass on tips on where to go and what to do.

That has received an exponential boost in reach and power with the advent of the internet, venue search engines with review functions, instantly available video content on YouTube and social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace and business equivalents like LinkedIn.

But this cyber endorsement – like the verbal version – can be double-edged.

Two American business travellers became famous in 2002 after a bad hotel experience led them to compile a damning PowerPoint presentation emailed to immediate contacts.

It snowballed, reaching hundreds of thousands of people, making headlines with national newspapers and TV networks and turning the disgruntled executives into celebrities.

The same influence can now be achieved by a recommendation or thumbs down on Facebook, or via an internet video uploaded from a humble mobile phone.

As ever, the US is ahead of us and American hospitality and tourism expert Doug Kennedy says hotel, restaurant and pub managers with vision and commitment can turn the new media to their advantage.

"For organisations that are truly focused on creating guest hospitality excellence, this is all great news because our industry is becoming as transparent on the issue of quality as it became long ago on the issue of price when 'best available rate' pricing was first implemented," he said.

"Regardless of your feelings and opinions about social media and guest reviews, the fact is your hotel's reputation is at stake and guests are going to be talking about how they were treated."

Based on his recommendations, here are training tips for venue staff:

- Recognise that online reviews posted by guests are now a major reason for new bookings.
- Keep track of day-to-day feedback from guests so you can head off problems and negative reviews later.
- Pick up on positive feedback by handing comment cards to the guest and thanking them in advance for any upbeat comment they can pass on.
- Encourage staff to share the feedback and support those individuals who might have been targeted unfairly, when the real issue was due to a system or process. But be straightforward when negative feedback is valid and use this as a training aid.
- Be prepared to apologise publicly without attacking those posting the review.

Another factor the new media offers is a way to promote venues with commercial customers. Having hooked up in a virtual environment, business networkers still need face-to-face meetings via coffee, lunch, dinner, meeting or syndicate rooms or even a conference.

Surveys estimate that 50-65 per cent of business professionals are connected via social networking websites, with LinkedIn being most popular and a potentially valuable medium for hospitality venues.

Most of those surveyed confirmed that they use the networks mostly to connect with potential clients and to showcase their skills.

WORD UP: Online reviews posted by guests through networking sites such as Linked In can lead to new bookings – or not

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Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

Taylor ahead of the rest against Albion

1909

100 YEARS AGO: A superb header by Taylor settled the Southern League fixture between New Brompton and Brighton & Hove Albion, with the Kent side winning 1-0 in front of around 8,000 fans at Priestfield.

A tame opening 20 minutes gave way to an exciting attacking affair, with Brompton dominating and regularly testing the visiting keeper Whiting.

His opposite number Bateup became a virtual spectator in the second half and the breakthrough eventually came on 65 minutes, when Reid crossed and Taylor headed home the only goal.

In the Kent League, Gravesend United's good away form continued with a 4-2 win at Sheppey, while Ramsgate forced a 2-2 draw at Faversham with the last kick of the match.

Dover were outplayed by the Royal Irish Rifles, losing 4-0.

County bowls flops berated at AGM

1959

50 YEARS AGO: Kent's perennial lack of success in bowls' Middleton Cup was proving a concern for speakers at the County Bowling Association's AGM.

Some cracked jokes about the repeated failures, but incoming president AE Walker said he was at a loss to explain how an association with 13,000 members couldn't find 24 of them capable of winning even a single game for the county.

"I do not know why it is and the selection committee does not know either," he said.

Over 450 people attended the annual dinner, held at the Royal Star Hotel in Maidstone.

Life ban Gray day in county rugby history

1984

25 YEARS AGO: Keiran Gray of New Ash Green became the first player ever to receive a life ban from the Kent Rugby Football Union, after he assaulted a referee during a 4th team match with the club's neighbours Vigo.

The 28-year-old from Longfield was banned after hitting the referee in the face. A spokesman for the Kent RFU said any player attacking a referee in the future could expect similar treatment.

Charlie Young, once Gillingham's record signing for £30,000 from Aston Villa back in 1978, was forced to retire from the game on medical advice.

He never fully recovered from a broken leg sustained against Rotherham in the 1980/81 season and quit the pro game a year later.

Young played for Met Police in the Isthmian League, but after suffering a recurrence said: "The pain was so great it was taking all the enjoyment out of playing."

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by email them to our sports editor at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**

Heart of a lion

Fleet defender rebuilding future in the game after beating heart condition that could have killed him

By **STEVE TERVET**

LESS than a year after being told he would never play football again, Ebbsfleet United's Ross Smith is hoping to kick-start his career with a move to Major League Soccer in 2010.

The defender, who is back on a short-term deal at Stonebridge Road to bolster the Fleet's Blue Square Premier survival bid, was diagnosed with a life-changing heart condition 48 hours after making his dream move to MLS side Colorado Rapids in January.

When doctors told him he had a defective heart valve, which left his heart working overtime, Smith believed his footballing life was over and Colorado ripped up his contract before he had played a single game for them.

Chest pains

Only when a specialist in his native Canada offered him surgery and the chance to return to the sport did the 29-year-old turns his thoughts once more to football and the possibility of lining up against David Beckham next season.

"I woke up in the middle of the night with terrible chest pains," he said. "I'd had them before but this time I knew something was wrong. I flew out to Colorado for pre-season but two days later I got a call saying there was something wrong with my heart.

"I was told I would struggle to have an active life and I could forget playing football. When they told me I could have open heart surgery, there were tears of joy in my eyes – to think I could be fixed was the best news of my life."

Smith began his career in Scotland but journeyed south of the border in the hope of signing with a club in the London area.

He eventually joined Margate before impressing Gravesend & Northfleet manager Liam Daish in 2005's pre-season.

After two years and 87 appearances, Smith's performances earned him a move to Conference champions Dagenham & Redbridge, where he was forced to wait for his first-team opportunities.

Despite leaving in 2008 to team up with former Leicester and Celtic midfielder Steve Guppy at Rochester Rhinos in the States, Smith has nothing but fond memories of his first spell in England.

Picture: MAL SWINDEN

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SECOND CHANCE: Ross Smith (left) is back at Ebbsfleet for a loan spell after heart surgery and says he is delighted to be playing for former boss Liam Daish again

He said: "I had a fantastic time at Gravesend. It was the first time I'd been a full-time footballer and it was everything I wanted.

"I couldn't believe how well supported they were – it was fantastic playing in front of the crowds at Stonebridge Road.

"I loved playing for Liam Daish and [Dagenham manager] John Still – all they wanted was a good, honest performance and I really got a buzz off that.

"The Fleet fans played a big part in me coming back – I was fortunate to meet many of them during my last stay and I think the world of them.

"I'm just taking it one game at a time but I want to head back to America around Christmas time, in time for pre-season. I hope Steve Guppy and [head coach] Gary Smith give me another chance at Colorado."

Fleet chief's sympathy for Daish transfer plight

Picture: EUFC

BAD LUCK: Duncan Holt says budget cuts have hampered Fleet boss Liam Daish

EBBSFLEET United chairman Duncan Holt has admitted the MyFootballClub takeover "could not have been worse" for manager Liam Daish.

Daish's budget was slashed in the summer after two-thirds of the 30,000 MyFC members declined to renew their £35 annual subscriptions. On the pitch the Fleet have made a hugely disappointing start to the season, going into yesterday's game second bottom in the Blue Square Premier.

However, Holt also stressed the positives of the MyFC membership scheme, which this month raised £8,000 in the space of seven days to pay three month's wages for a loan striker.

He said: "That's the power of MyFC. Three or four years back, we had five people sitting round a table thinking, "can we afford this and that?" Now you know you've got 5-10,000 people who will pledge money. I'm constantly amazed by the generosity of people.

"I do feel sorry for Liam. In terms of timing and the way we've done it, it could not have been worse for him. Lots of clubs take a gamble and give their manager a big budget, whereas we had to set our budget low.

"For Liam, it hasn't worked but we'd rather be in our position than a club like Salisbury [who entered administration in September]."

Holt also revealed no solution had been found regarding a permanent training ground, after the squad were locked out of the AEI Sports Club in Gravesend five weeks ago.

He said: "We are still hopeful of sorting something out with Charlton Athletic and we're also talking to a couple of other sports centres in south-east London. In the long term we are looking to return to AEI but right now it's frustratingly slow."

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The man in the middle

Picture: ADY KERRY

Age no barrier for young referee as he sets his sights on the Premier League

AMBITIOUS: Gavin Ward is the youngest referee to reach the Football League

By DAVID PRITCHARD

THE prospect of thousands of people hurling abuse while you work would prompt most to think about a career change, but it has done nothing to put Gavin Ward off breaking records as he climbs the refereeing ladder.

Ward, who grew up in Sheppey and now lives in Oxted, near Sevenoaks, may look fresh faced but he has more than 15 years' experience as an official.

He began running the line at men's games before his 14th birthday and at 22 became the youngest to reach the Football League.

Still only 29, his career highlights include becoming the youngest to become an assistant in the Premier League ane he has officiated in the UEFA Champions League. He now has his sights set on the promotion he needs to take charge of games in the Premier League.

He said: "I knew because I started at a young age there was an opportunity there.

"My short-term goal is to get on to the Premier League and my long-term is to get on to FIFA. I've had that in the back of my mind and it would be fantastic to achieve that."

After starting so young, Ward has long been used to comments about his age from players, managers and fans alike. It has followed him into the professional game, but he insists it is not something which bothers him unduly.

He said: "It's like any referee, some get a hard time because they're tall, short, fat or bald. The obstacle I had to get over was the fact I was young and it was quite rare to have that in men's football.

Young

"To a certain extent I still get that now, especially if I come across clubs I haven't refereed before, where they think 'we've got a young guy here, we might try it on a little bit'. There will always be something."

Barely a week goes by without a mistake by a referee examined in minute detail in the media, with Thierry Henry's 'hand of frog' incident pre-occupying most over the last few days.

Ward studies DVDs of his performances to find ways to improve and subscribes to the view that a good referee is barely noticed.

He said: "We try to come away from the game with no one talking about us – we know we've done well if that happens. It can be hard when you read in the press about something that's happened at the weekend, but we're human beings at the end of the day. Just like players miss open goals, we sometimes get decisions wrong."

With the exception of goal-line decisions, Ward is firmly against any introduction of technology to be used during games, fearing it would slow the sport down and distance the top level from grassroots.

However, one area he wants changed is harsher punishments retrospectively for any players caught diving.

He said: "It's something in the game I would certainly like to see go without any question. It would be nice if something more could be done to the players who do it in terms of retrospective punishment.

"All we can do on the day is book them and it's a hard thing to spot, especially when it's so fast and you get one chance to see it. I'd love to see it out of the game."

Sitting volleyball facilities awarded national status

KENT'S recent contribution to sitting volleyball has been recognised with the county now home to one of eight national development centres for the Paralympic sport.

Wyvern School in Ashford is already the base for two members of the Great Britain women's team and was awarded the status by Volleyball England this week.

Sitting volleyball is a full Paralympic discipline, although there was no British representation in the sport for 16 years following the 1992 Games.

Kent have led the way in reviving the sport on these shores and Tom Middleton, Kent County Council volleyball development officer, said the award for Wyvern was hugely significant.

He said: "It's huge for sitting volleyball nationally – at the moment it's not popular because it's just not that well known. In this country, we're relatively well off and more people can afford wheelchairs so they're less likely to find out about sitting volleyball."

INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain's Claire Harvey, who plays at Wyvern School

The sport runs on near-identical lines to volleyball, except with players sitting on the floor, using a smaller court and a lower net.

Over the last decade, Iran and Iraq have been ranked amongst the best sitting volleyball sides in the world, with Bosnia also enjoying recent success.

Middleton explained: "The sport is usually suitable for people who have suffered a traumatic amputation, stood on a land mine or been involved in a road traffic accident. For that reason, it's a sport which is popular in areas of conflict."

Helen Sole and Claire Harvey both play for Great Britain and will be looking to Wyvern to help them cement their places for 2012.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Stimson says Gills hitman Jackson's a snip at £1.5m

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson admits he would be "amazed" if the club did not receive any transfer bids for highly-rated striker Simeon Jackson during the January transfer window.

The 22-year-old has netted 11 goals already this season and has averaged more than a goal every two games in his relatively short career.

His form this year has seen him play in the Gold Cup with Canada and the striker has only just returned from an international break which saw him feature against Macedonia and Poland.

A host of clubs are rumoured to be interested in the striker, with Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers the latest to be linked this week.

It came after Stimson publicly said even a £1.5 million fee – 10 times what the Gills paid less than two years ago – would be money well spent.

"Nothing has been said or done because it's not time to do it yet," he said. "That's my figure, it probably means nothing at all, but if someone got him for £1.5 million it could prove to be a snip because he's got potential with his age and everything to kick on."

BARGAIN: Mark Stimson says £1.5m represents money well spent for his star striker Simeon Jackson (left)

Although the Gills boss has always keenly stressed the club have never received even an informal enquiry about the striker, he believes that will come to an end when the transfer window re-opens.

"I would be amazed if there wasn't something in January because of what the lad has done so far. But there's still five or six weeks and in football you're only as good as your last game. You have to maintain that standard," he said.

The former Rushden & Diamonds forward has been linked with a high profile move away from Priestfield ever since scoring against Aston Villa in the FA Cup 11 months ago.

The speculation has never appeared to unsettle him and Stimson does not think it is about to change.

He said: "He's a good kid. He wants to play at a higher level and do better for himself but he knows sometimes it takes time. In the meantime you have to be a professional and keep working on your game and he does that day-in day-out."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

FUN IN THE SUN: Dean Headley will join game's greats for Twenty20 tournament

Deano set to join cricket legends in Twenty20 event

FORMER Kent and England bowler Dean Headley has been selected to take part in the inaugural Cricket Legends of Barbados tournament, which begins next week.

The 39-year-old seamer, who played 15 Test matches, will join up with an England squad captained by Darren Gough.

Also included are Devon Malcolm, Dominic Cork and Mark Ramprakash, who will take part in the over-35s Twenty20 international competition.

Some of the world's most famous cricketers will take part, including West Indies legends Sir Vivian Richards, Courtney Walsh and Carl Hooper, with Herschelle Gibbs, Lance Klusener and Arjuna Ranatunga also competing.

Headley, who skippered Upchurch in the Kent Cricket League Division Three this season, will play against the West Indies, South Africa and Sri Lanka, in the round robin televised tournament.

The best two teams will compete in the final and the winners will receive $50,000.

The tournament in Barbados begins on November 27, with the climax on December 5. England's first game is against the hosts on November 30.

I'll reclaim Tour spot, vows defiant Barham

Golfer ready to pass qualifying school test

By TOM HOWARD

HE MAY have lost his European Tour place following a disappointing season, but Benn Barham is adamant he has the game to not only regain his card at Qualifying School, but win the tournament.

Last week the 33-year-old completed one of his worst seasons on the European Tour by finishing 133rd in the order of merit rankings.

Despite coming close to earning his first Tour win when he finished second at the Austrian Open in September, he missed the cut in 16 of his 26 tournaments this season.

Barham missed his 16th and final cut of the year at the JBWere Masters in Australia last week, when he needed a top-five finish to secure his place on the tour.

Gruelling

The Chart Hills golfer now faces the grueling challenge of Tour Qualifying School held at PGA Golf de Catalunya in Spain next week, which will see 180 golfers competing over 108 holes for 30 Tour cards for next season.

Despite his future hanging in the balance, the Ashford golfer, who is no stranger to competing at Qualifying School, is confident he can do more than enough to earn a Tour card.

He said: "I'm in a much better position compared to the last time I was there in 2004 and I have shown this year my game is good enough to almost win European Tour events.

"It is a tough competition, but I know what I can do. I am going there to win it just like any tournament I enter, whether it is a local event or a Tour event. I've been working on my game and I'm ready for the challenge.

"It was a big ask to go to Australia and get a top-five finish, but I had to do it. I looked back on the season and basically I have to work harder on my game and knuckle down more. The skill level on the European Tour just keeps getting better and better and it is a much more serious business compared to five years ago."

Barham heads to Spain next Wednesday to prepare for the European Tour Qualifying School final stage, which begins next Saturday.

MISSED CUTS: Benn Barham failed to hold onto his European Tour card after a poor season

Ford's driving for Tour debut

MATT Ford is trying to take one step closer to a place on next year's European Tour in Spain this weekend.

The 31-year-old former National Assistants champion from Bearsted, near Maidstone, is competing in the second stage of qualifying at Sherry GC in Jerez.

The 72-hole tournament, with no halfway cut, finishes tomorrow and is one of four tournaments taking place simultaneously in Spain.

Depending on results, around the top 80 players will progress to the six-round Final Qualifying tournament, which starts at the PGA Golf de Cataluyna club in Spain next weekend.

Ford, who has been attached to the Marriott Tudor Park club for the past three years, finished the domestic season in fine style.

He won two tournaments and finished runner-up in another on the PGA South Region Tour to finish second overall on the Order of Merit.

Before leaving for Spain he said: "I don't want to put too much pressure on myself, but if I can carry on playing the way I have been lately I should have my main Tour card by the end of the Qualifying Stage."

Picture: ADY KERRY

Three other Kent golfers will be trying to win one of the precious spots on offer at Costa Ballena GC, also in Jerez.

Herne Bay-based Steve Tiley will be full of confidence after his victory in the Egyptian Open a fortnight ago, which earned him £18,000.

Anthony Tarchetti, from Prince's GC at Sandwich, is also competing at Costa Ballena along with amateur Matt Haines (Rochester & Cobham), who played in Great Britain & Ireland's defeated Walker Cup team in September.

Clubs divided over Six Nations TV schedule

THE county's rugby clubs are split over where they want to watch their international rugby following the recommendations of a national review panel last week.

The panel, which proposed the return of home Ashes series to free-to-air television, also recommended England's football qualifiers, home and away, to join the 'protected' list.

But when it came to the Six Nations, only Wales matches (shown to viewers in Wales) were proposed as free-to-air fixtures.

All matches in the championship are currently shown on the BBC, while Sky broadcasts live Guinness Premiership and Heineken Cup matches throughout the season, as well as British Lions tours and England's autumn internationals.

Dave Hicks, Sittingbourne chairman, said: "We need the Six Nations on free-to-air TV because we're always competing against football and we need kids to be exposed to rugby on the telly.

Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

DIVIDED: Six Nations matches on Sky could mean fewer youngsters joining Tunbridge Wells (left) but Canterbury (right) are enjoying the financial benefits of rugby on satellite TV

"The more people get to see rugby, the more will want to play. I don't like cricket but even I saw the Ashes in 2005 (on Channel 4)."

Tunbridge Wells head coach Paul Hathaway agreed the sport needs all the exposure it can get if young people are to take up rugby seriously.

He said: "It would be a shame if only the Wales matches were shown on free-to-air TV. As a coach and a teacher, I want more people to watch games of rugby. The kids then get a visual understanding of what you're trying to get them to do."

However, Sky has won many fans since its first live Premiership broadcast in 1994, including its coverage of England Six Nations matches prior to 2002.

Canterbury chairman Giles Hilton said: "At the club, we get really good reduced rates from Sky – we pay about a quarter of what you'd pay as a pub.

There's nothing better than a Six Nations game at 4.30pm, which keeps people at the club, drinking and socialising.

"Football is probably the only thing that does need to be on terrestrial TV as much as possible. Undoubtedly a successful England side with matches live on terrestrial TV brings the country together."

The final decision on any changes to the list will be made by culture secretary Ben Bradshaw in the spring.

My Key goals are yet to be realised

Kent captain eyes championship glory

AMBITIOUS: Rob Key wants Kent to challenge for County Championship glory after leading his side to promotion from Division Two last season Picture: ADY KERRY

PERSONAL goals aside, the ultimate ambition I have left in cricket is to win the County Championship – and I very much hope to achieve that as the captain of Kent.

There was a lot of speculation about my future towards the end of last season, but I am delighted to have signed an extension to my contract at Kent and everything this winter is geared towards us being able to mount a challenge for the county title next summer.

I still want to play for England again, and James Tredwell's sudden but fully deserved call-up to the England one-day team this week served as the perfect reminder of just how quickly fortunes can change in sport. You never know what is just around the corner if you keep working hard and trying to improve.

Since the end of the 2009 season it has been great to know that next summer we are back in the big time again as a result of our successful promotion season from Division Two. It is a big motivator for us all.

I must admit that, personally, I couldn't get myself too excited about our championship cricket last summer. Playing second division cricket is not what I want to do, and we just had to make sure we did the job of getting promoted.

Now, though, we can prepare for another stab at winning the championship and to do that with Kent would be a dream come true for me. It would be the ultimate.

Ryan McLaren's departure back to South Africa, to take up the opportunity of playing international cricket for them, is a big loss to us. But we must do our best to replace him as we recruit some new players during the winter – with an overseas bowler perhaps top of our list.

I am hopeful we will be able to announce something along these lines within the next month or so, and it is the depth of our bowling attack which I am most concerned about getting right between now and April.

[Head coach] Paul Farbrace and I spent a few weeks directly after the end of the season going through our squad and looking ahead to next year, assessing our strengths but also looking at the areas we need to improve. It is getting ever tougher to find the right players who are available when you want them to be, but it is a fact of life for every county in this era of the Indian Premier League and other Twenty20 tournaments – besides a busy international calendar – so we just have to get on with it.

It is a big plus for us that we have the inside track on a lot of international-class cricketers, thanks to Farby's recent experience of working with Sri Lanka and Graham Ford's coaching work in South Africa. But, again, the change in the situation regarding the availability of work permits for overseas-based players is making the recruitment process even tougher.

What we do know, however, as we look ahead to 2010, is that Durham are now setting the benchmark for what you need to do if you want to become county champions.

They have played some excellent cricket in their successive championship-winning seasons and in Steve Harmison they have had the sort of bowling spearhead which makes such a massive difference.

They have also benefitted from the emergence of other locally-raised fast bowlers, in Graham Onions, Liam Plunkett and Mark Davies.

Bowlers such as those are great assets to have in county cricket and, together with some good recruiting of players such as Dale Benkenstein, Michael Di Venuto and Ian Blackwell, they are the main reason why Durham are currently some way ahead of the rest.

But Robbie Joseph has come through his shoulder operation well, has started his bowling rehabilitation and is raring to go. If he and Amjad Khan are fully fit again by the start of next summer, then it will be like getting two new signings. We do need more support for them, and Simon Cook, and I will also be looking for young lads like Matthew Coles to continue to make strides forward.

As a county, Kent have not really produced a quality locally-born and raised international calibre fast bowler since Alan Igglesden and, a bit before that, Richard Ellison and Graham Dilley.

It is time we did so again, and that is certainly something for the coaching staff to get their teeth into in the near future. As Durham prove, producing your own fast bowlers makes life very much more straightforward in terms of building a team that can go all the way.

• ***Rob Key, the Kent captain and former England batsman, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

NEW SEASON: Kent's 2010 fixture list was released this week Picture: ADY KERRY

Trent Bridge trip for Kent on open day

KENT'S opening game on their return to the LV County Championship Division One next season will be a trip to play Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, starting on April 15.

The county's complete 2010 fixture list was released this week and Kent's first home championship game, following their Division Two title success this year, will be against Yorkshire at Canterbury, starting on April 21.

Rob Key's side begin their season with a friendly against Loughborough University at Canterbury, starting on April 10, while county champions Durham will visit the St Lawrence Ground for a four-day match starting on May 17.

The Nevill Ground in Tunbridge Wells is scheduled for one County Championship game, beginning on June 4 against Nottinghamshire.

Next season sees the return of the popular 40-over Sunday League format and Kent Spitfires' first match in the new ECB 40 League will be against Warwickshire Bears at Canterbury on April 25.

The Friends Provident Twenty20 Cup has been extended for 2010 and Kent Spitfires will play 16 group matches, eight at home and eight away. Their first match will be away to the Essex Eagles on June 2.

The St Lawrence Ground will also host the touring Pakistan team in June and two under-19 internationals between England and Australia in August.

OPENING FIXTURES 2010 SEASON

- April 10: KENT v Loughbourough UCCE, Canterbury, friendly
- April 15: Nottinghamshire v KENT, Trent Bridge, County Championship
- April 21: KENT v Yorkshire, Canterbury, County Championship
- April 25: KENT SPITFIRES v Warwickshire Bears, Edgbaston, ECB 40 League
- April 27: Lancashire v KENT, Old Trafford, County Championship
- May 2: KENT SPITFIRES v Durham Dynamos, Canterbury, ECB 40 League
- May 4: KENT v Warwickshire, Canterbury, County Championship
- May 8: Nottinghamshire Outlaws v KENT SPITFIRES, Trent Bridge, ECB 40 League
- May 10: Essex v KENT, Chelmsford, County Championship
- May 16: Warwickshire Bears v KENT SPITFIRES, Edgbaston, ECB 40 League
- May 17: KENT v Durham, Canterbury, County Championship
- May 22: Scottish Saltires v KENT SPITFIRES, Edinburgh, ECB 40 League
- May 24: Durham v Kent, Durham, County Championship
- May 31: KENT SPITFIRES v Scottish Saltires, Canterbury, ECB 40 League

Tredders to make England bow

KENT spinner James Tredwell is in line to make his England debut today after receiving an unexpected call-up to the injury-hit squad touring South Africa.

The 27-year-old flew out as cover for Graeme Swann, who was ruled out of the opening two One Day Internationals – the second of which is at Centurion Park, near Pretoria, this afternoon – by a side strain.

Tredwell was set to take his international bow in the first ODI in Johannesburg on Friday, but persistent rain saw the game abandoned without a ball bowled.

The call-up was in recognition of Tredwell's excellent summer with Kent, where he took 69 first-class wickets at an average of 26.63.

He is uncapped at international level, although he was called up to England's one-day squad for the tour of New Zealand last year.

Graham Johnson, Kent's chairman of cricket, believes Tredwell's call-up is well deserved.

He said: "James is a fine cricketer and this call-up is thoroughly deserved. He enjoyed a great season and is clearly back to his best."

The off-spinner will be in competition for a place in the starting line-up with Adil Rashid, who conceded 25 runs in his only over during the second Twenty20 international at Centurion a week ago.

Tredwell's inclusion sees him join up with club-mate Joe Denly, who has been an ever-present opening the batting on tour so far.

The 23-year-old was out for a duck and 14 in the two Twenty20 internationals against South Africa, but hit 23 against their A-side on Tuesday.

Picture: ADY KERRY

DEBUT: James Tredwell has been on standby for England

WHOLE WORLD AT LEONS' FEET

Aprilia move for British Superbikes king

NEW TEAM: Leon Camier looks set to race for Aprilia in next season's World Superbikes championship

Picture: RACINGAPRILIA.COM

LEON Camier is expected to complete his dream move to the World Superbike Championship next week and the ambitious rider is already plotting a tilt at the 2010 title with Aprilia.

EXCLUSIVE

By TOM HOWARD

The 23-year-old has become one of the most talked about up-and-coming names in the sport after dominating the 2009 British Superbike Championship.

A record-breaking 19 wins from 26 races caught the attention of the Aprilia World Superbike team, who finished fourth in the constructor's standings in their debut season this year.

The Italian team are expected to confirm the Ashford-born rider alongside the vastly experienced Max Biaggi next week, making Camier a genuine contender for next year's crown.

Aprilia have been interested ever since he clinched the British title in September and offered a trial for the final two races of this year's World Championship. He impressed at the higher level and clinched two top 10 finishes at the final round in Portugal last month.

Camier believes it is only a matter of time before a deal is completed and is already looking forward for a title shot next season.

He told Kent on Sunday: "Although the team made their debut in the championship this year they showed they can compete at the top end.

"I think a move there could give me a title shot if not in the first year, but the second year. I've got a lot to learn by moving up to the series, but I'm desperate to win races.

"At the moment I'm just waiting on a few things, but everything is positive and I'm hoping we can sort the deal out next week. I'm excited to begin racing in the World Championship, it's what I have been working towards my entire career."

Although still awaiting confirmation from the Aprilia team regarding a deal for 2010, Camier has been testing with the team this week at Misano in Italy.

If all goes to plan, Camier will be racing former team-mate and close friend Shane Byrne. The 33-year-old confirmed last weekend he will compete for a second successive season in the championship after signing a deal with Althea Ducati.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

CHAMPION: Leon Camier looks set to follow last season's British title win with a step up to World Superbikes

The Sheppey rider finished eighth in the riders' standings in his debut season in the series with Sterilgarda Ducati. Byrne had been hoping to secure a ride with a works team and was linked to the vacant seat at Aprilia.

However, the two-time British Superbike champion was unable to resist an offer to ride for the new team, who are serious about challenging the front runners.

He said: "I'm extremely happy to join the Althea Ducati racing team. The team has put together a fantastic package that should enable me the opportunity to fight at a very high level."

Byrne is due to make his debut with the team in a test at Spain's Valencia circuit next month ahead. The championship gets underway on February 28 at Australia's Phillip Island circuit.

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